### - BUSINESS/BI

**BIR** blames increased use of tax credit certificates for shortfall

#### METRO/AI7

Grenade blast rocks private school in QC; no persons hurt



# = NEWS/AI6

House still millionaires club; Rep. Cynthia Villar is the richest

wabsite: www.inq7.nst

#### ACROSS/AI3

Town mayor suspected in journalist's murder stopped from leaving RP

#### Oracion's triumph thrills Palace, Lucban residents

WHEN LEO ORACION'S NEIGHBORS IN Lucban, Quezon, heard that he had reached the summit of Mt. Everest, they broke into ap-

"This is a big honor for Luchan," Peter Oraclon, a brother of Leo's, said in Filipino over GMA 7's early evening newscast. "Of all the people in our town, only he had the inner strength to climb Everest.

Even as a boy, Leo was into sports like

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Thursday, May 16, 2006

6 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 159 P18

Feast of crispy pata, lechon awaits Everest conquerors

By Christian V. Esguerra

EVERY DISH THEY MISSED IN SCALING THE world's tailest mountain they will find on the table when they get home.

Nothing short of a feast is being prepared for Ceo Oracion and Erwin "Pastor" Emata by their colleagues in the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition (FPMEE). There will be crispy pata, iachon, shawarme, and, of course, hugs.

> CONQUERED as of 3:30 p.m Nepal time (5:30 p.m. here), May 17, 2006. (Photographed by Jon-jon Rufino from about 6,000 meters (about 20,000 feet) on the northern route to the peak.

# Pinoy on top of the world



CONQUEROR, Leo Oracion, hones his mountainsering skills at Muztagh Ata in Tibet, China, on April 7, making it to its summit of 24,757 feet where he planted the Philippine colors.

# 32-year-old Leo Oracion reaches Everest summit

By Alcuin Papa

TRIUMPH AND DEEP EMOTION MARKED THE announcement yesterday of triathlete Leo Oracion that he had made it to the summit of Mt.

"The Philippine eagle has landed." was the radio message of the first Filipino to set foot on the roof of the world, according to Regie Pablo, team leader of the

First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition (FPMEE), of which Oracion is a member.

32-year-old Oracion reached the summit at 3:30 p.m.

(5:30 p.m. Philippine time), Pablo said, citing information relayed in a phone call by the FPMEE's Arruro Valdez, who is at the Everest Base Camp (5,400 meters or 17,700 feet).

The adventure racer and lead climber for the FPMEE would have reached the peak earlier in the day but was reportedly bogged down by "traffic" on the

He was among a 30-member

team composed of Swiss, Korean and American mountaineers as well as Sherpas, indigenous people who serve as guides and climbing partners.

The team was slowed down considerably upon reaching the Hillary Step, a 40-foot wall of rock around an hour to the sum-

This is a big accomplishment for a country at sea level," Pablo told the incomer just after he got

We have no experience with alpine conditions; this is alien to us. It's like putting a Filipino on the moon. We also showed the other expeditions our positive values and outlook on things," he

Pablo also said Oracion's feat would put the Philippines on the international mountaineering map: "It's a boost to the reputa-

By Michelle V. Remo

surplus

in April

THE GOVERNMENT POSTED A rare budget surplus in April, five times higher than the surplus posted a year earlier, as lower expenditures made up for weakerthan-expected income tax rev-

Gov't posts

rare budget

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves yesterday said the government had a budget surplus of P17.6 billion in April, with revenues reaching P95 billion and expenditures amounting to P77.4

billion. The budget surplus in the same month last year amounted to

P3.3 billion. Teves said the P50-billion budget deficit for the first four months was also below the shortfall of P60.1 billion a year earlier, putting the government on track in meeting its budget deficit target of P125 billion compared to last year's P146.8 billion.

The surplus boosted Philippine dollar bonds, with bonds due in 2031 and 2016 rising threeeights of a point on expectations of sustained improvements in the

#### As chapel bells ring, Albay villagers 'evacuate' By Edgar Alejo and Niño Jesus Orbeta PDI Southern Luxon Bureau



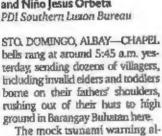
Impeach bid ushers in early Christmas

By Michael Lim Ubac

ADMINISTRATION ALLIES in the House of Representatives can't wait for the opposition to revive impeachment proceedings against President Macapagal-Arroyo, hoping it would usher in an early Christmas.

"I am in receipt of numerous requests from majority solons requesting its certain filing," said Rep. Rolex Suplico in a telephone inter-

said that the IMPEACH/ A6



so set off alarms from Guam to Singapore as two dozen Pacific Rim nations held an unprecedented drill organized after Asia's monster tsunami of 2004.

The massive drill, dubbed the "Exervice Pacific Wave 2006." was conducted over two days that saw several real earthquakes hit the region, including one north of New Zealand that triggered a re-



FROM GUAM TO THE PHILIPPINES, a mock transmit warning sends villagers to higher ground during the unprecedented drill covering 24 Pacific and Asian nations, in Sto. Domingo, Albay, the elderly and toddlers on their father's shoulders march out of their buts as the village chapel bells sound an alarm for immediate evecuation.

# Opus Dei in RP: It began with 3 Harvard boys

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

(First of theo parts)

JESUS ESTANISLAO WAS PURsuing a doctorate degree in economics at Harvard University In 1961 when he met a group of Filipinos raising funds for a chapel of Opus Del close to the university in Cambridge, Massachusetts. "I rhought I should do my

part," narrates Dr. Estanislao, 66, noted economist and former finance secretary in the Corazon Aquino administration. An Opus Dei numerary, Estanislao

served as Opus Dei regional director for Asia. Then a priest of the Opus Del assigned there-Fr. Alfonse

Lecounte Genoa-told me that it

work." In other words, it was God who was going to do the work through the worker. "It was the first

time it was said to IM SPECIAL REPORT me that way," recalls Estanislao. That was how he

began to understand Opus Del ("God's work" in Latin) and what institution

was not I who would do the Catholic Church was all about. Estanisho wasn't in a spiritual

search mode at that time. He had studied in Catholic universities—the Divine Word Missionaries' San Carlos University in Cebu for college and the Jesuits' Pordham University in New York for his master's. Priesthood or membership in a religious group was never in his

OPUS DEVAIS

### Critics pan 'Da Vinci' in Cannes

CANNES, PRANCE-THE DA Vincl Code" drew lukewarm praise, shrugs of indifference, some jeering laughter and a few derisive jabs on Tuesday from arguably the world's toughest movie crowd--critics at the Cannes Film Pestival.

The year's most anticipated movie, "The Da Vinci Code," has sparked protests from Christian groups as far away as South Korea, Thailand and India.

Protest actions included boycorts, a hunger strike and attempts to block or shorten screenings.

The movie was a generally faithful adaptation of Dan Brown's best seller, spinning a murder thriller that stems from a cover-up of secrets about Chris-

### SC chief: We uphold civil liberties vs gov't action Panganiban also sald that un-

By Armand N. Nocum

CHIEF JUSTICE ARTEMIO PAnganiban yesterday said that the Supreme Court was asserting its independence when k struck down as unconstitutional acts of President Macapagal-Arroyo regarded as inimical to civil liber-

In a speech before graduate atudents of the Georgetown Law

Center in Washington, Panganiban said that the court's recent decisions affirmed its commitment to "safeguard the liberty of our people and to nurture their prosperity, while upholding the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary."

Panganiban referred to "landmark" rulings on petitions assail-Ing Executive Order No. 464 hanning officials from congressional

inguiries, the Calibrated Preemptive Response (CTI) policy against demonstrators and Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 that placed the country under a weeklong state of emergency in **Pebruary**,

"In Ill these cases, the Sugreme Court upheld the primacy of civil libertles over governmental actions," Panganiban

He stressed that any move to suppress the rights of Pilipinus in exchange for economic progress would not succeed. "Pilipinos may endure occasional hunger, but they will never tolerate injustice and indignity for long."

He said this was the reason President Perdinand Marcos marrial law regime failed to proeconomic long-term

like its foreign counterparts, the Philippine court cannot adopt the "view that courts exist in a vacuum," given the "stark realities of poverty in our country."

Thus, he said, the Philippine judiciary must work hard at contributing to the country's prosperlry. Panganiban said liberty and

CRITICS/AIS

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will experience mostly cloudy sides with scattoned rainshowers and thunderstorms. The risk of the country will have parify cloudy to

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Ben. Senter

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# ha-cha foes unfazed by dialogue

By TJ Burgonio

THE NEWLY ORGANIZED STOP Cha-cha coalition says it is not daunted by the agreement of the Senate and House of Representatives to discuss constitutional reform, and it is determined to mount more road shows and file more cases in court to derail any move to amend the Constitution while President Macapagal-Arroyo is in power.

Members of the coalition are also confident that the senators would not bend over backwards and agree to sit with the administration-dominated House in a constituent assembly to amend the 1987 Charter.

By agreeing to the dialogue, the Senate was merely performing its role in the system of checks and balances, former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman said yes-

"I think that the Senate is being true to its mandate of making democratic institutions work, defying what Malacanang is doing, which is to corrupt all democratic institutions," she said at a public forum in Makati.

It is Malacaffang that is in a panic because their plans are not coming to fruition as promised by their operators," she added.

Soliman, together with nine resigned Cabinet colleagues, is a member of the Black & White Movement which is part of the STOP (Se Tamong Oras at Paraen) Cha-cha coalition that includes people like former President Corazon Aquino, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Senate President Franklin Drilon and other political, business and youth leaders.

Senators and congressmen agreed to the dialogue in last Tuesday's meeting of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Committee called by Ms Arroyo to discuss priority measures.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said yesterday that the Lower House would not insist on the two chambers voting as one in a constituent assembly if they agreed beforehand on what constitutional amendments to adopt.

"If they agree to amend the Constitution, why not?" Nograles said in an interview. What is important is the finished product. We could do it whether voting separately or jointly as long as it's a done deal.

"As soon as we can reach an agreement on which provisions would be revised, it will now be easier to determine if we move forward with the Cha-cha through Constituent Assembly, which is favored by most congressmen, or through a Constitutional Convention, which is preferred by the Senate," Nograles added.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President was "gladdened" by the develop-

"As the Senate and the House leaderships prepare for talks, we are hopeful that they will find a middle ground to move forward Charter change," Bunye said in a statement.

At vesterday's STOP Cha-cha forum, Drilon allayed fears that the Senate had softened up on its stand that both chambers must vote

"Contrary to the spin, nething happened vesterday except an agreement that our chairs on constitutional amendments will sit down today and talk. Nothing else has changed," Drilon said.

"All this talk about the Constitution being amended by July 2007 is all part of propaganda. It's quite obvious that it will not happen,"

Former Sen. Vicente "Ting" Paterno said he believed it was necessary for the Senate to go to the dialogue "so that they will not be seen as intransigent." But he warned the Senate against involvement in a constituent assembly as it would be suspect and lose credibility.

Soliman said the anti-Cha-cha coalition would press ahead with its community-based forums in the countryside to explain the truth behind the administration's artempt to amend the Constitution via a constituent assembly or people's initiative.

The group is holding a program, dubbed Tango"—for "Tanggalin Muna si Gloria Bago mag Cha-cha"- in front of the Commission on Elections at around 3 p.m. today.

Makari Mayor Jejomar Binay, head of the coalition's legal task force, said the group was preparing to file more cases before courts in Caloocan, Makati, Pasig and Quezon cities, and Manila to stop the Comeler from verifying signatures in the administration-orchestrared people's institutive. With reports from Philip C. Tubera and Christine O. Avendaño

Gonzalez

fires back

at Cuenco

JUSTICE SECRETARY

Raul Gonzalez yester-

day dared Cebu Rep.

Antonio Cuenco to

join the Batasan 5 as

part of their legal

team even as he de-

nied accusations that

the Department of

Justice is dictated by

a Marcosian thinking.

Marcosian thinking

in your head because

you cooperated with

Marcos from Day 1 of

Martial Law. We can

compare our records

during Martial Law

and see who was

dancing to the Mar-

cosian music, which!

never did," said Gon-

zalez, a human rights

lawyer during the

Marcos years, in a

Gonzalez was re-

acting to statements

from Cuenco for the

President not to listen

to sychopants like

Gonzalez who figure

in legal entangle-

ments like the pursuit

of five party-list con-

gressmen accused of

rebellion. Cuenco

said such moves only work against efforts

to unite those in gov-

Gonzalez said he could not understand

why Cuenco cannot

see the need for the

DOJ to go after those

out to bring the gov-

ernment down.

emment.

letter to Cuenco.

"You may have the

By Armand N.

Nocum

# Senators propose amendments to rules on inquiries

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

A DAY AFTER SENATORS ATtended a meeting in Malacañang, some of them yesterday sought to amend the Senate rules governing inquiries in aid of legislation supposedly to encourage witnesses to appear in its hearings.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, chair of the Senate rules committee, said the revision of the rules on Senate inquiries would hopefully "lead to better cooperation between the Senate and the executive department."

The proposed amendments undoubtedly please Malacañang, which has branded the hearings as "in aid of destabilization" and sought to derail them by issuing Executive Order 464.

Pangilinan and Senators Ralph Recto, Manuel "Mar" Roxas II and Pia Cayecano filed Senate Resolution 482 despite an earlier Supreme Court ruling declaring as unconstitutional parts of EO 464 particularly those berring government officials from appearing in congressional hearings without the President's consent. Malacañang has said it would seek a reconsideration of the SC rul-

In their resolution, the four senators proposed the addition of six provisions, which are intended to "rights of a person appearing in or affected" by the Senate inquiries.

#### Advance copy

The new provisions include requiring a potential witness to submit his or her written testimony three days in advance, the hiring of a lawyer who shall help the committee screen the testimony, the holding of executive sessions for confidential matters, and giving a person to be mentioned by a witness the opportunity to testify to answer allegations against him or

"My fellow senators and I are proposing amendments ... in hopes of assuring witnesses that their rights will be respected and to encourage them to appear before Senate investigations in aid of legislation," Pangilinan

He said the new provisions were meant to address the concerns of persons appearing in the Senare, including government officials, that their rights will be respected as mandated by the Constitu-

"These proposed amend-ments would also ensure that the cooperation of witnesses would not lead to



PANGILIMAN

their rights being prejudiced. We hope this too may lead to better cooperation between the Senate and the department," executive Pangilinan said.

#### New rules

The new rules are:

 Every investigation shall specify the laws, orders, rules that will be reviewed

 The rights of a w pearing in or affected by an inguiry shall be respected

 Every witness intending or invited to appear before an investigation shall submit. written statement of his/her testimony at least; three days before the sched 2 uled appearance unless the ; majority of the members of the committee determines. the urgency of one's testimony in which case the witness will be excused from this re-

quirement. This requirement for an advance copy of a testimony has been raised by pro-administra-tion senators during the con-troversial Senate "jueteng" investigation where members of the President's family were im->

. Holding of an executive" session when: matters con-cern national security or committee procedure; when testimony will tend tocrime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure professional standing of an individual, or expose him or her to public contempt and violate his pr her right to privacy; when testimony will disclose the identity of an informer or law enforcer.

• The committee shall hire a lawyer to "assist the committee in evaluating the testimony.

of the witness and in distinguishing between admissible and inadmissible testimony.

• Giving a right to the impugned person to file a swore statement or personally appear. to testify or submit questions in writing that would be used for ;the cross-examination of the-; witnesses.



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# ermanent chief of NBI yet; Mantaring is acting director

By Christine O. Avendaño

The state of the state of

FIVE MONTHS AFTER THE DEATH of Reynaldo Wycoco, Malacafiang has yet to come up with his permahent replacement as head of the National Bureau of Investigation.

This after Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita announced yesterday that from being officer in charge of the NBI, Nestor Mantaring was designated as its acting director.

President Macapagal-Arroyo

appointed Mantaring last April 19 and his appointment paper was released last April 28.

Wycoco succumbed to a stroke in December last year.

In his weekly news conference, Ermita also announced the

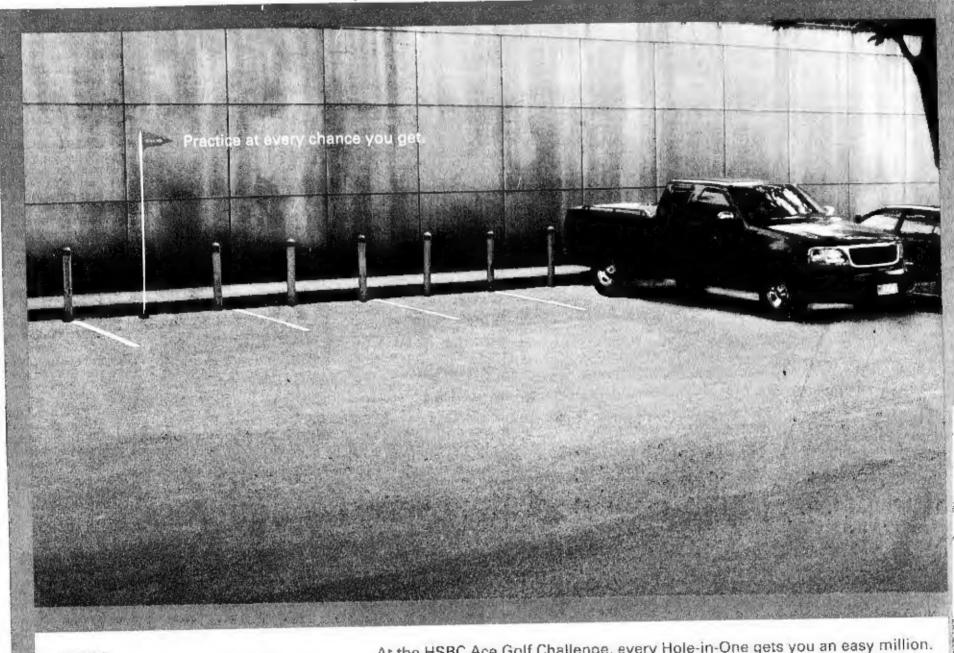
appointment of five other offi-cials to various positions. They were appointed to these positions by the President from May

3 to 4. These were former Philippine National Police chief Roberto

Lastimoso who was appointed as Director 5 of the Metro Rail Transit Line 3; Josefina Santos as acting member of the Board of Pardons and Parole; Federico Puno as member of the Board of Direc-

tors of the Manila Electric Com-

pany, Antonio Habana as mem-ber and chair of the Board of Directors of the Bataan Technology Park Inc; and Stefano Sano, member of the board of Directors of the Bataan Technology



At the HSBC Ace Golf Challenge, every Hole-in-One gets you an easy million. That's 6 Hole-in-One prizes totaling P3 million in cash and 3 million miles.

Too off is on 29 May 2006 at the Eagle Ridge Gulf Course in General Trias, Cavite. Open to all amateur golfers, the tournament offers three P1 million cash and three 1 million air miles in Hole-in One prizes up for grabs. To top it off, the eight class winners in the tournament will be given the opportunity to watch their favorite golf stars in action at the HSBC Champions tournament this November in Shanghai, China. So start working on that swing.



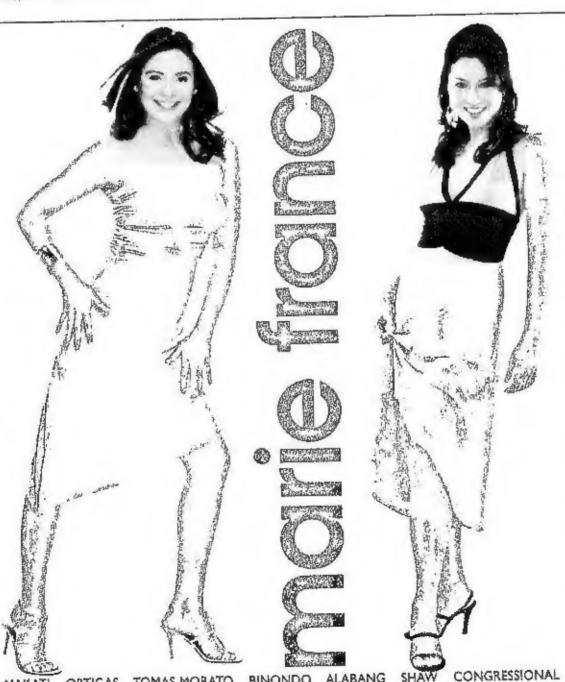
Ace Golf Challenge

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# Pinoy on top of the world

From page A1

tion of Filipinos in the mountaineering world. I think that in a very strong way we showed them what we are made of. All around the world, people will look at Fil-ipinos with higher esteem."

A second FPMEE climber, Erwin "Pastor" Emata, also 32, was expected to launch his own climb to the peak last night in the company of four climbers from Mallorca in Spain and their Nepalese. guides, Valdez said.

He was expected to reach the

Pablo said the team split up Oracion and Emata as part of its "strategy"-"Just in case the weather turns bad, there is a climber on standby."

From the team's account, Oracion started off from Camp 4, the a final way station at the rarefied air of 26,000 feet, on Tuesday night, and had been climbing

He had to fight off exhaustion, the thin air, and the cold (sometimes dropping to as low as -60 degrees Celsius) to reach the peak.

Oracion brought with him an oxygen tank, water and some personal effects, including a crayon drawing of the Philippine flag by his 5-year-old daughter.

#### Dream come true

In an Interview aired over ABS-CBN, a principal sponsor of



THUMBS UP AND HIGH HOPES mark the launch of the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition in March 2004.

Valdez said a Filipino on top of Everest was for him "a dream

"We showed the whole world that if we (get) our act together teammate who, he said, climbed

we can accomplish anything. Indeed, the Filipino can do it," Valdez said.

Pablo was full of praise for his

from Camps 3 to 4 without the aid of oxygen tanks.

"Leo is methodical with the things he does. He is a good person and he takes very good care Camp 3 last night, and to make

of his teammates. He knows what he is doing, and his Sherpa is experienced," Pablo said.

Oracion was expected to reach

the trek down for around eight

hours today to reach Base Camp. Next year, the whole FPMEE is scheduled to climb Everest (29,028 feet, or 8,848 meters) through the North and South

Some will be chosen as climbers; the rest will serve as support teams.

Team members Pablo, Karina Davondon, Larry Honoridez, Janet Belarmino and Noelle Wenceslao were at the National Sports Grille in Greenbelt, Makati City, for a press conference when they heard the news of Oracion's

When Pablo heard confirmation from Valdez, the team members erupted into shouts of joy. Shortly afterward, they gathered to say a quick prayer for the safety of Oracion on his descent and of Emata on his own assault.

We have overcome every obstacle in our struggle. We thank those who supported us with their prayers," Honoridez told reporters at the venue.

#### Garduce

Oracion and Emats arrived at the Everest Base Camp on April 15. By then, rival climber Romi Garduce had been preparing for his own attempt to become the first Filipino to plant the national flag at the summit.

Garduce, 37, who had arrived at the Base Camp late in March, is due to reach the summit tomorrow, according to his principal sponsor, GMA 7. With an AFP re-

# Feast of crispy pata, lechon awaits Everest conquerors

From page Al

"They must have missed Filipino food so much during their stay at Mr. Everest, so we'll make sure that their stomachs will be full once they get back," said Carina Dayondon, who, along with Janet Belarmino and Noelle Wencesiao, spoke with the in-QUIRER while awaiting news from the mountain yesterday.

Dayondon, Belarmino and Wenceslao, the only women in the 17-member FPMEE, were beaming with pride at the prospect that two of their fellow climbers were soon to reach the peak of Everest. (Oracion made it to the top yesterday, with Emata not too far behind.)

success is measured when at least one member gets the job done, Belarmino explained.

Next year, the three women are scheduled to follow Oracion and Emata's lead. They are to leave tomorrow for an expedition in Alaska as part of their prepara-

Wenceslao said the experience and triumph of their two colleagues would be invaluable in their effort to achieve a similar

"They are two of the strongest members of our team, and we look up to them for inspiration and encouragement," she said.

And the funniest, too, the



ORACION: Eagle has landed



**EMATA: Expected to reach** summit today

"Their humor kept us alive during our treks," Dayondon said, recalling an instance when Emata showed up wearing a traffic aide's vest and knee-high socks.

But when it came to climbing mountains, Oracion and Emata were all business, and acted as big brothers to other members of

Dayondon said the two mountaineers often stayed at the end of the line, encouraging disheartened climbers to go on and even carrying part of their load, and making sure that no one would be left behind.

#### Not impossible

Dayondon said the physical and mental strength of Oracion and Emara had long convinced

He is employed as a tourist

guide and usually accompanies

researchers. He is also a member

of the Davao-based Sandawa Mt.

Rey Sumagaysay, a close friend

and fellow climber in Davao, said

Pastor had asked him during their

most recent conversation to pre-

pare a roast pig for his homecom-

Apo mountaineering club.

their teammates that reaching the top of Everest would not be an impossible task for the two

"The capability is there. It's only the weather that will spell the difference," Wenceslao said. The women got to know Ors-

cion and Emata when they began training with the FPMEE in 2004. In March, the five of them

joined the Philippine Coast Guard as draftees for its quick-reaction and search-and-rescue missions.

They will be a great asset to the organization," Lr. Comman-der Joseph Coyme, PCG spokesperson, told the Inquiest. Their compensation? The op-

portunity to rescue people in distrest, and monthly pay ranging from P3,000 to P9,000.

# Oracion's triumph thrills Palace, Lucban residents

From page Al

swimming, cycling and basketball, Peter said. He was in high school when he started climbing

"He would climb Mt. Banahaw over and over by himself," Peter said, "He would also jump backwards from Arko Bridge, but with a harness.

Family members were surprised at the huge undertaking that Leo's climb had become. But they said they had no doubt that he had the capability to make it.

Said Loreta Oracion of her elder brother: "Of course, all of us are very happy. We're so proud of my kuya because he has realized his dream. Even as a child, he wanted to climb mountains. He is

always after adventure." Loreta said the family was planning a reunion, perhaps even

a small party, for her brother. were a special welcome by the the climbers, Ermita said he was

cade for Lucban's native son.

#### Palace rejoicing

Early yesterday, with Oracion's feat yet to be confirmed, Malacañang could not contain its excitement and sent congratulations to him and Erwin "Pastor" Emata.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters that the expected success of the two climbers showed "the indomitable spirit of ... men, especially if they're Filipinos."

"We're equal to anyone in the world," Ermita said, adding that the Palace was "rejoic(ing) that they're accomplishing this feet."

You can imagine how the world will be looking at Filipinos being able to plant the Philippine flag on top of Mt. Everest," Ermite said, "We are proud of [them]."

Asked whether Malacañang Also reportedly being planned would roll out the red carpet for

Sangguniang Bayan and a motor- "sure" they would be invited by and the children." President Macapagal-Arroyo, especially because she wanted Filipinos to take pride in the achievements of others.

#### Nervous

In Davao City, Pastor Emata's wife Mary Ann said she and the rest of the family were feeling nervous as he approached the summit of one of the world's most dangerous mountains.

Mary Ann said that while she and the family knew Pastor to be a seasoned mountain climber, they could not avoid worrying about his safety and that of the other members of the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedi-

"We ask you to pray for their safety. Let us pray that their climb would be successful," she told the Inountin yesterday.

Mary Ann said she last spoke with her husband on Saturday: "He told me he was missing me

The Ematas have two children the Mindanao Aeronautical Tech- the summit. and live in Tagum City some of kilometers north of Davao.

Mary Ann quoted her husband as saying that he and the other climbers were fine.

"They will rest a little upon arriving at Camp 4, and start climbing again (Wednesday) evening," she said.

#### 'Mama's boy'

By his wife's account, Pastor (nicknamed thus because of his religious bent) has been climbing mountains since he was 13-a passion that intensified in 1995 when his mother passed away.

"He was deeply hurt by his mother's death. His passion even became more intense because of that, so he climbed Mt. Apo and stayed there for two weeks," Mary Ann said.

ma's boy." Pastor completed a tourism

She described him as a "Ma-

Pastor to make good on the promise to become one of the first

Filipinos to reach the summit of Everest. "I told him to just plant our flag once he gets there," Sumagaysay

#### **Under contract**

ing celebration.

In Bataan, the family of yet another mountaineer, Romi Garduce, is praying for God's providence to keep him safe and help

and travel management course at him realize his dream of reaching

Romi's niece, Ella, said family members were gathering regularly for prayers. "We're behind him. We pray a lot, offer Masses and novenas," she said in a phone interview from the family home in Barangay Tinajero in Balanga

Citing an exclusive contract with GMA 7, family members declined to talk about how they were feeling about Romi's climb.

Romi, the Philippines' "highest He said he was not expecting akitude record holder," left Everest Base Camp on Sunday and was expected to reach Camp 3 yesterday or today.

He was expected to reach Camp 4 after another day of trekking. From there, he will make his final climb to the peak.

With reports from Christine O. Avendaño in Manila; Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luson Desk

# Gov't posts rare budget surplus in April

From page A1

government's finances. Some analysis saw the surplus as a sign that fiscal reforms-including the implementation of the 12-percent expanded valueadded tax (VAT) in Pebruary were taking hold in the Philippines, Asia's largest issuer of sovereign debt after Japan.

#### The unimpressed

But not everyone was impressed with the latest numbers. The details were less than stellar-with the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) undershooting its revenue target for April by around 10 percent," said Sin Beng Ong, economist at JP Mor-

Expenditures in April shrank 7 percent to P77.4 billion while spending in the first four months of the year ballooned 10 percent to P350 billion as the government coughed up money for the construction of bridges, schools and roads after years of scrimping.

expenditures Government were expected to rise in May and June as the government planned to accelerate capital investment before the rainy season sets in.

#### More work needed

"The surplus was aided by lower expenditures. But since we expect cash disbursements to be higher in May and June, we have to work on the revenue side if we

want to stay on track of the fiscal target for the full year," Teves said in a press conference. The BiR, which accounts for

two-thirds to three-fourths of government revenues, collected P71.4 billion in April against its turget of P78.6 billion. Teves said income tax payments in April of P48.5 billion

were 15 percent below target as large companies used their existing tax credits against their tax payments, resulting in lower cash collections, (Related story on Business, Page B1.) "It's really in the income tax

that we had a serback," Teves

said. "The challenge on the rev-

enue side is to make sure we don't

have the same kind of difficulty at

we had in April."

in April, VAT collections amounted to only P10.98 billion, slightly lower than the BIR target of P11.4 billion. The government is banking on

a year from the 12-percent VAT. Teves said the Bureau of Customs (BOC), which collects tariffs on imports, collected P16.3 billion, slightly lower than its P16.51-bil-

extra revenues of about P75 billion

lion target for the month. Commissioner Customs Napoleon Morales, however, disputed the figures of the finance department, saying the bureau actually collected P16.58 billion. Morales said the BOC and the DOF would be reconciling the collection figures.

The Sureau of the Treasury,

which collects dividends from state-owned firms, collected P4.8 billion during the month, slightly higher than its P4.7-billion target.

#### Target too high

The BIR wants the finance department to lower the bureau's revenue goal of P675 billion this year, up 26 percent from 2005, snying the target may be too high. The BOC is also seeking a lower-

ing of its collection target this year, saying the government's decision to reduce oil tariffs, which is estimated to result in foregone revenues of as much as P5.2 billion, should result in a corresponding decrease in its collection target.

But Teves insisted the goals: were "realistic and attainable."

He added the government would not change the combined revenue target of P872 bilpercent from lion-up 29 2005-for the BIR and Bureau of Customs this year.

The government, which is fighting corruption, evasion and weak implementation of tax laws, wants to cut this year's budget deficit to P125 billion, or 2.1 percent of gross domestic product from P146.5 billion, or 2.7

percent of GDR in 2005. In 2005, the government, which spends about a third of its budget on interest payments for about \$76 billion in foreign and domestic debt, had budget zurpluses in April, June and August.

With a report from Reuters



### Noli assures cardinal of gov't assistance for rail squatters

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO vesterday assured Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales of an "incity resettlement and beneficiary-led development" for the 32,000 squatter families affected by the rehabilitation of the Philippine National Railway tracks or the Southrall project.

De Castro said the concerns raised by Rosales in his letter which was addressed to the Vice President in behalf of the relocated families were not inaccurate.

"It is unfortunate that some quarters have presented to the Archbishop Issues that are either recycled, inaccurate or not in their proper context," De Castro in a letter-reply to Rosales.

"The welfare of the relocatees has always been a paramount concern to the government. We are extending all forms of assistance to ease their plight," he

The over \$50-million government project will cover the Philippine National Railways' 36-kilometer milway from Caloocan City to Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Once completed, it will have the ca-pacity to carry roughly 187,000 passengers a day.

in a letter to De Castro dated May 12, Rosales sought the latter's assurance that the displaced families would be relocated to a site with adequate facilities and would be given alternative "in-city relocation sites."

Rosales said that poor people living along the railroad tracks from Caloccan to Los Baños had come to him several times confiding their relocation problems such as children's education, family income, distant relocation and excessive concern for cut-off dates and dendlines regarding the rejocation process.

Rosales also said that based on a study conducted by the Urban Poor Associates, the situation at the relocation site in Cabuyno, Laguna, was "seriously poor"—the water is not potable without boiling; there is still no light and family incomes have fallen to P5,568 on overage a month from a pre-location level of P6,500 to P7,500," the cardinal's letter

#### Looking for solutions

De Castro said that while he recognized the difficulties of these affected families, the said government housing sector had not ceased looking for solu-

He said that since the relocation project began, he had been holding dia-logues with the stakeholders including multilateral organizations, private sector groups, non-government organizations, peoples' organizations and the baneficiaries themselves, to minimize the dislocation of affected families.

De Castro also said that he was convinced an in-city resettlement and beneficiary-led development is the best approach to take in relocating the settlers along the North and South rails after a thorough review of several options pre-

sented. "I have directed the agencies under me to ensure that this approach is presented and explained properly to the beneficiaries. They are the ones who will be affected by our actions," the Vice President sald.

He pointed out that differences in positions notwithstanding, the government shelter sector had worked smoothly with various organizations assisting the relo-

These included the Homeless People's Pederation assisted by Fr. Atilajano Pajardo, (CM of the Vincentian Missionary), the Diocese of Malolos through Fr. Dennis Espejo and Fr. Vince Reyes, the Grwad Kalinga led by Executive Director Amonio Meloto and the UN Habitat.

Ü

# 1,300 soldiers set to evict ex-Navy officers

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE PHILIPPINE NAVY HAS FORMED a 1,300-strong team to evict over 50 retired Navy and Marine senior officers from their quarters in Fort Bonifacio this Saturday.

In a show of force, 100 junior officers and 1,200 soldiers assembled yesterday at the Marine Headquarters grandstand, a stone's throw away from the disputed Bonifacio Naval Station (BNS) quarters.

They should be ashamed of themselves. Where is their shame?" Task Force "Balik-Bahay" commander, Marine Lt. Col. Gloksen Dammang told the troops in a "pep talk."

The retired officers showed no sign of leaving their individual quarters in-side the BNS which they have claimed for their own in the past 15 years.

They maintained they have legally acquired the 20-hectare lot through a title issued in 1992 to their group, the Naval Offi-

cers Village Association Inc. (NOVAI).

While the case is pending in court, past Navy leaderships have allowed these retired officers to stay on, much to the frustration of senior officers still in active duty who were entitled to the quarters.

Three former Navy chiefs, Vice Admirals Ernesto de Leon, Victorino Hingco and Mariano Dumancas even continued to use their quarters long after they have retired.

De Leon retired in 2005, Hingco in 2003 and Dumancas in 1994.

Last Friday, the Navy served a "final notice of eviction" to 56 of the nearly overstaying officers. They were given until Saturday to leave their quarters.

De Leon and Hingco and retired Rear Admiral Octavio Dauz have sent word to the Navy leadership they would move out before the deadline.

D-Day for eviction

"Saturday is our D-Day for the eviction. I don't care (if they resist eviction). We will

ally used cuss words in his pep talk.

No ranking Nevy or Marine officials were around at the troop formation, except for Navy spokesman Capt, Geroni-mo Malabanan and Marine spokesman Lt. Col. Arlel Caculitan.

Malabanan said the task force was given a total of 40 M35 trucks, forklifts, and payloaders to do its job, "We will not extend the deadline unless they secure a (court) order," he said.

One of those to be evicted, retired Rear Admiral Pio Garrido Jr. told reporters he would not leave his quarters.

He appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to stop the eviction, as he invoked a proclamation issued by her father, the late president Diosdado Macapagal in 1965 that declared areas of the Port Bonifacio military reservation as housing sites.

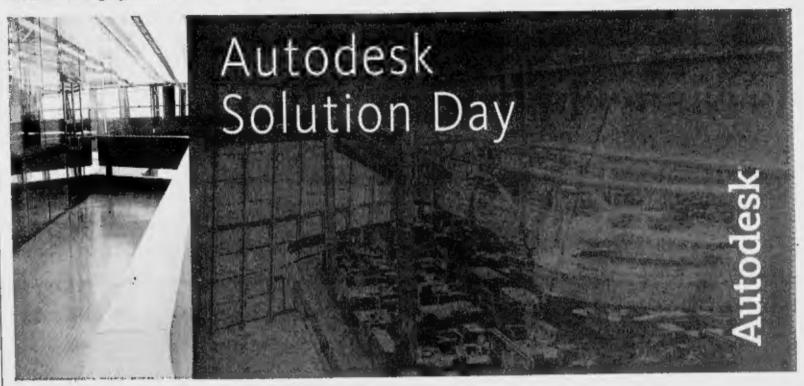
The NOVAI acquired a land title to the BNS officers' quarters in 1992 on

follow orders," said Dammang, who liber-ally used cuss words in his pep talk. the basis of Macapagai's Proclamation 461. In 1994, the NOVAI secured an injunction from the Court of Appeals against their eviction.

We will not leave on Saturday... We are very afraid and anxious because more than one thousand soldiers are following illegal orders," said Garrido, who spoke to reporters outside his

Other ranking officials who face eviction are former Marine commandants Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa and Emmanuel Teodosio; Rear Admiral Napoloen Baylon, Eriberto Varona, Manuel de Leon and Guerero de Guzman and Maj. Gen. Guillermo Ruiz.

The Navy said the overstaying officers have also piled up P7 million in unpaid electricity and water bills. Those with the highest debts are retired Commodore Julito Casillan with P212,626, Commodore Rene Leandro Ebro with P154,502 and Espinose with P132,810.



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WAITING FOR THE DRILL to start outside their home in Barangay Buhatan, Sto. Domingo Albay, a woman and child get set to evacuate as soon as the tsunami alarm sounds.

THOTOS BY NIÑO JESUS Y ORBETAFIDI SOLLTHERN LLIZON BURGAU

cific region during the two days

of the drill, including temblors off

New Zealand, Indonesia and the

The latest, a magnitude 5.8-

earthquake on Wednesday morn-

ing, rattled Tonga at the same

time that emergency authorities

on the country's islands were

broadcasting simulated earth-

quake alerts as part of the Pacific-

Wednesday,

Zealand national civil defense

controller Mike O'Leary said the

7.5-magnitude quake that hit

north of that country's Kermadec

Islands on Tuesday had generat-

ed a minor local tsunami that did

Chris Ryan, of the National Me-

teorological and Oceanographic

Center, the Australian organiza-

tion that sends trunami warnings

to emergency officials, said the

test went according to plan in

"No major problems or unex-

pected events apart from a couple

of earthquakes before the exer-

cise started-real ones, that is,"

he said, referring to the quakes

that joited New Zealand and In-

On Tuesday, major participants

included Chile, Peru, Ecuador,

Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica,

E

Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras,

Australia, the United States,

Canada and several Pacific is-

Participants on Wednesday in-

cluded the Philippines, Indone-

sia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thai-

land, Malaysia, Singapore, Tai-

wan, South Korea, Japan, Russia,

China and several Pacific islands.

With a report from AP

Salvador,

donesia.

**Participants** 

Nicaragua,

Australia, despite the quakes.

not affect any populated areas.

wide simulation.

Pacific island nation of Tonga.

# As chapel bells ring, Albay villagers 'evacuate' Several earthquakes hit the Pa-

From page At

al, though minor, tsunami affecting only unpopulated islands.

It was the first-ever international tsunami drill that put to actual test the disaster-preparedness and response capabilities of tsunami-prone communities.

While they awaited the go-signal from civil defense officials, Buhatan villagers readied their food, light and sleeping provisions.

As they trekked to the designated upper and safer ground, the evacuees brought along thermos bottles, biscuits, pots of rice, pails and bottles of water, untbrellas and kerosene lamps

A crippled man with backpack joined the moving crowd with infants, a pregnant woman and several old people getting help.

A dog showed up on the street to find his master. Children brought along their school bags while the mothers carried light essentials in plastic bags.

Participated in by 12 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including those in the Indian Ocean where the terrible tsunami occurred in December 2004, the two-day dry-run was able to test how fast the warnings were received and relayed from the national civil defense agencies down to the concerned local disaster coordinating councils.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center installed in Hawaii sent out the warnings about mock earthquakes to the respective national warning stations.

#### Bells peal

In Buhatan which has a voting population of around 700 and an estimated 1,400 families, the residents were roused from their sleep at around 3:30 a.m. by the pealing of a bell in the village chapel, located just some 20 meters away from the shoreline.

With a megaphone on one hand, a barangay ranod (village watchman) went around the cluster of huts, urging the residents to get ready for an evacuation.

When the second bulletin was received at 5:45 a.m., the bells successively rang, signaling immediate mass evacuation.



THE DISABLED are not exempted from participating in the drill that could one day save the entire barangay from a monster technical.

By 6:15 a.m., the barangay was virtually deserted as some 1,400 villagers were already settled on an elevated open field.

Roadside metal signs were set up by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) pointing the way to

There were also signs at the coastline declaring danger areas and requesting the people to go to a higher elevation in times of earthquakes.

Boyer Rodriguez of the municipal mayor's office described the simulation exercise as giving importance to preparedness for possible hazards and disasters.

The tsunami drill highlighted

The villagers lined up along the proper warning system that nations to signal a mock magnithe barangay road and proceeded culminated with a mock evacua- tude 8.8 earthquake off the coast by the strong turnout for that tion, which was very orderly.

The quakes that struck Tuesday and Wednesday, the largest measuring magnitude 7.5, served as a vivid reminder of how seismically volatile the Pacific Rim can be. No damage or injuries were reported.

#### Vivid reminder

Wednesday's exercise was aimed at avoiding any repeat of the 2004 disaster in Asia, when killer waves hit a dozen nations and left 216,000 people dead or missing-many of them because they were not forewarned of the

At the start of Wednesday's test, e-mails and faxes were sent and alarms sounded in monitoring stations in the participating

The exercise followed a similar test on Tuesday, when officials simulated a scenario in which a 9.2-magnitude qualte hit Chile, triggering a csunami that would have affected much of the Pacific Ocean region.

In Malaysia, about 400 villagers living along the coast of Sabah state on Borneo Island were evacuated as part of the

Malaysia's Meteorological Service said it received simulated earthquake and tsunami alerts from the Pacific Trunami Warning Center in Hawaii and Japan's Meteorological Agency Wednesday.

Renato Solidum, head of the

Phiyoles, said he was impressed country's exercise. About twothirds of Buhatan's 1,200-plus villagers joined while the rest went to work outside the village.

Pablo Torrealba, a UN Development Program official who observed the drill, cited the enthusiastic response and close coordi-

nation among local officials. The message is that you need two combinations: well-coordinated national institutions and prepared communities. The combinarion will help to save lives," he told The Associated Press.

#### Real earthquakes

In Japan, Yuji Nishimae, an official at Japan's Meteorological Agency, said the exercise went as

PANGANIBAN: Independence

#### SC chief: We uphold civil ...

#### From page Al

prosperity should be regarded as mutually inclusive.

"Liberty becomes the guarantee that, free from all interference and suppression, we all can conceive of the good life and act ac-cording to those conceptions. I venture the proposition that a sociery marked by such liberty is

prosperous," he said. Panganiban had also given speeches before the United Nations Development Program and the Philippine American Chamber of Commerce in New York, He is set to give lectures in Europe

# Impeach bid ushers in early Christmas

Palace's promises, including cash, projects and appointments, during last year's impeachment have not been complied with," said the opposition congressmen from Hoi-

After bungling the impeachment attempt against Ms Arroyo last year, Minority Leader Prancis Escudero announced Monday the opposition would resume its bid to unseat the 59-year-old President when the Third Congress opens in July.

#### No visit from Santa

Escudero also threatened to expel from the minority bloc those who would not support the impeachment initiative. Last year, Ms Arroyo's majority allies soundly squelched the opposition's effort to oust her over allegations she stole the 2004 presi-

dential election. The Constitution allows only

one impeachment case to be filed against the President in

Suplico yesterday told reporters some administration lawmakers were unhappy that Malacañang had not lived up to promises they would be rewarded for nipping the impeachment move in the bud last year.

"Santa Claus did not visit us, as the Palace promised," Suplico quoted one disgrunsled Arroyo

Assistant Majority Leader Monico Pirentevella of Bacolod City fumed at Suplico's swipe. "Must we be dragged into this spectacle of gutter politics once more?"

Our people are already tired of too much politicking," said Puentevella, pointing out that the "impeachment circus," not Sarua Claus, "was coming back to town."

"The Palace does not dictate on us and we in the majority have our own sense of discernment in decid-

ing on any impeadment complaint," said Puentevella. "The minority are already in a panic mode because of their imminent defeat."

#### Kill move earliest

Rep. Salacuib Baterina of Ilocos Sur dismissed reports that Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez had ordered House supporters to kill at the earliest possible opportunky any impeachment case against the President this year.

The rules on impeachment will be followed to the letter and we will be transparent in all our actions," said Baterina.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Brmita was more candid. "It's not really unusual for a member of Cabinet or Justice Secretary Conzelez to take such a position."

Ernyica said it was also only nocmal for the administration to say that it did not expect the move to unsent Ms Arroyo to prosper. Rep. Marcelino Libanan of

enough signatures. They set their own policy-no 79 signa-tures, no filing of raps. That's

their setback." He referred to the number of signatures needed to move the complaint to the Senate for trial. Libanan pointed out that despice the efforts of the minority to

biggest problem that the minori-

ty has to hurdle is not the pro-

bring the impeachment complaint to the Senate last year 51 signatures was the best they got even with the momentum of their Arroyo-oust campaign at that

#### No one to blame

"If they fail to get the magic number, they lose. Period. They have no one to blame but themselves. The President does not meddle in the individual decision. of administration lawnsakers,"

Eastern Samar said: "The Opposition party-list Rep. Joel Villanueva of the Citizens Battle Against Corruption decess in the House but getting scribed the new impeachment case as a "litmus test" to determine the principles and source of conviction of each member of the opposition.

Lito Monico Lorenzana, chair of the Charter Change Advoca-Commission, called on Congress to give priority to moves to amend the Constitution and adopt the parliamentary system instead of impeach-

"Charter reforms are needed to arrest the growing number of Füipino families going hungry, Lorenzana said."

The parliamentary form and federal structure will enable us to replace plundering and powertripping leaders," he added. With reports from Christine O. Avendailo and Norman Bordadora

# Palace unfazed by German threat to suspend investments in RP

unfazed by the prospect of foregoing investments from Germany because of the long delay in compensating Fraport AG, the biggest foreign shareholder of Philippine International Air Terminals (Piatco), for building the Ninoy Aguino International Air Terminal 3.

In a briefing, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said that while it was unfortunate that Germany would withhold infrastructure Investments in the country pending the resolution of the Nais 3 "the compensation, country will just have to find ways and

means to compensate for the foregone investments from somebody else." Germany funnels over \$1 billion in annual investments into the country.

German Ambessador Axel Raimund Weishaupt bared his plan 1D country's

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end. Deferred Paymentin Up To 24 Mos

freeze infrastructure investments in the Philippines in protest over the government's foot dragging in reaching an amicable settlement on the \$450 million to \$550 million being demanded by Fraport and Platco which built the Naia 3.

The Supreme Court mullified Fraport and Piateo's Naia 3 contract and allowed the government to expropriate the facility subject to just and fair compensation. But Malacahang wants to have a third-party sasessor to determine

With The T IS MAN PROSESSED.

X-PRO

the just and fair compensation as it argued that a big chunk of the investments that Pra-Piatco and claimed to have spent on Naia 3 were used for bribes.

Teves said that he was not overly concerned about the Ger-

ambassador's threat because he was skeptical on how much sway Weishaupt holds on his country-

men's business deci-

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sions. "We are not sure the German amments flowing into bassador can influence all German investors," Teves said.

country was improving the economic and political factors. For Teves, the key "If we strengthen our

fundamentals that businessmen are look-ing into, we'd be able to generate more in-vestments from other vestments from other 2 countries," Teves said.



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Statistics show an upsurge in the cases of human rights violation in the province of Bulacan since the deployment of the 24th Infantry Batallion to augment the forces of the 56th Infantry Batallion, and the assignment of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparen as the Commanding ment of the perpetrators so that authorities may thwart the "climate of impunity" and could Officer of the 7th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army in Central Luzon last

Since President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo took office in 2001 and up to 2005, documented human rights violations in the province alone numbered at 36, of which 7 are cases of extrajudicial killings and 2 are enforced disappearances, not to mention the cases of physical harassment and mental torture affecting more that 1,300 workers, peasants, fisherfolks, urban poor and youths.

From January to March 2006 alone, 13 civilians were killed, excluding many civilian and barangay officials who are victims of enforced disappearance, physical and mental torture and house burnings perpetrated by armed bonnet wearing men that residents suspect as having links with the military and in some cases, victims identify the perpetrators as elements of the 56th IB and 24th IB of the Philippine Army.

The victims are deprived of their basic right to live guaranteed no less than by our faith and by existing laws, both national and international. Without any formal charges, they were arbitrarily arrested or forcibly taken and even killed in the allegation that they are NPA sympathizers or supporters. This is contrary to the constitutional principle of presumption of innocence. The perpetrators acted as the accusers, the judges and

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# Palace unfazed by German threat to suspend investments in RP

the unfazed by prospect of foregoing investments from Germany because of the long delay in compensating Fraport AG, the biggest foreign shareholder of Philippine International Air Terminals (Piatco), for building the Ninoy Aquino International Air Terminal 3.

In a briefing, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said that while it was unfortunate that Germany would withhold infrastructure investments in the country pending the resolution of the Naia 3 "the compensation. country will just have to find ways and

for the foregone investments from somebody else." Germany funnels over \$1 billion in annual investments into the country.

German sador Axel Raimund Weishaups bared his plan country's to

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and, Caracrad Payments Up To 24 Mas

investments in the Philippines in protest over the government's foot dragging in reaching an amicable settlement on the \$450 million to \$550 million being desnanded by Fraport and Piatco which built the Naia 3.

millified Praport and Piatco's Naia 3 contract and allowed the government to expropriate the facility subject to just and fair compensation. But Malacanang wants to have a third-party assessor to determine

2200751/5760

pensation as it argued that a big chunk of the investments that Fraand Piatro claimed to have spent on Naia 3 were used for bribes.

Teves said that he was not overly concerned about the Ger-

ambassador's threat because he was skeptical on how much sway Weishaupt holds on his country-

men's business deci-

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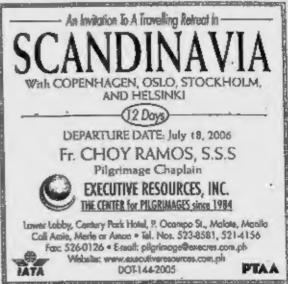
sions. We are not to keeping investments flowing into sure the German ambassador can influence all German investors," Teves said.

country was improving the economic and political factors. "If we strengthen our For Teves, the key

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fundamentals that businessmen are look-ing into, we'd be able to generate more in-vestments from other vestments from other countries," Teves said.

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# WE THIRST FOR PEACE (IN BULACAN)

Peace is our prayer, hope and commitment. Peace is when the government no longer allots an indecent percentage of the national budget to military spending but to education and other services to the people.. Peace is when communities are no longer harassed by military troops, taking their chickens and rice harvests. There can be no genuine peace when basic human rights are trampled upon and when the people live in a climate of constant fear and

Bulacan since the deployment of the 24th Infantry Batallion to augment the forces of the 56th Christian nation such ours. These investigations should lead to the prosecution and punish-Infantry Batallion, and the assignment of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palpe Officer of the 7th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army in Central Luzon last send a clear message to all members of the police, military and other security forces that September 2005.

Since President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo took office in 2001 and up to 2005, documented human rights violutions in the province alone numbered at 36, of which 7 are cases of extrajudicial killings and 2 are enforced disappearances, not to mention the cases of physical harassment and mental torture affecting more that 1,300 workers, peasants, fisherfolks, urban poor and youths.

From January to March 2006 alone, 13 civilians were killed, excluding many civilian and barangay officials who are victims of caforced disappearance, physical and meatal torture and house burnings perpetrated by armed bonnet wearing men that residents suspect as having links with the military and in some cases, victims identify the perpetrators as elements of the 56th IB and 24th IB of the Philippine Army.

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· LORDAN MALERY BY IN ACT TO MAKE THE BEET .

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME COURT HAS ORdered Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Gregory S. Ong to stop hearing the trial of former First Lady Imelda Marcos on ili-gotten wealth charges after Ong was reported to have said that he would dismiss the case because it was unwarranted and that he found chief witness former Solicitor General Frank Chavez "mayabang (arrogant)."

In the decision penned by Associate Justice Adolfo Azcuna, the high court directed Ong to recuse himself from the case, saying the chair of the antigraft court's fourth division should be mindful of the principle that judges should avoid impropriety in their .conduct" at all times.

"In insulating the bench from unwarranted criticism, thus preserving a democratic way of life, it is essential that judges be above suspicion. It bears stressing that the duty of judges is not only to administer Justice but also to conduct themselves in a manner that would avoid any suspicion of irregularity," the tribunal said.

The court ruled on the petition filed the Office of the Ombudsman asking that Ong be prevented from hearing the case after Ong told Special Prosecutor Wendell E. Sulit that he did not want to take the case.

"I do no want that case. I will dismiss that case. When I listened in to the case you were prosecuting, Chavez was saying nothing but hearsay" Sulit quoted Ong as telling him in his sala in February 2003.

# Bantay Kalikasan fined for La Mesa Ecopark

By Blanche S. Rivera and Philip C. Tubeza

THE TABLES APPEAR TO HAVE been turned on Bantay Kalikasan as the government yesterday declared the environmental group had broken the law by operating the La Mesa Ecopark without an environmental compliance certificate.

The Laguna take Development Authority (LLDA) also fined Bantay Kalikasan P50,000 for violating PD 1586 establishing the environmental impact system and an additional P5,000 for each year of its transgression.

But even before the LLDA could serve Bantay Kalikasan the proper notice scheduled to be carried out today-the environmental group claimed that the La Mesa Ecopark did not need an environmental clearance certificate because the resort and picnic grounds were not critical to Metro Manila's water supply.

"It's 70 to 80 meters below the dam reservoir so it's not en- coverage" and said it would ap-

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LA MESA Dam Ecopark

vironmentally critical. And ply for it. what we did here is to rehabilitate an aiready existing park," said John Paul Balayon, Bantay Kalikasan operations manager.

Balayon agreed the park needed a "certificate of non-

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The LLDA's call against Bantay Kalikasan is ironic, coming at the height of a campaign by the group to stop a housing project

for employees of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) on grounds it would contaminate the reservoir on top of not having an environmental clearance.

Rep. Edcel Lagman, a supporter of the housing project who tried to fight off Kalikasan's moves, charged that the environmental group itself had no clearance to operate the park.

"Based on the investigation report of our Environmental Impact Assessment Unit, your La Mesa Ecopark (33 hectares within the La Mesa Watershed) has violated the ... laws ... for undertaking a development ac-

tivity without first securing an environmental compliance certificate and LLDA clearance," Casimiro Ynares III, LLDA general manager, said in his notice to the environmental group.

The LLDA also issued a similar notice to the MWSS for its executive housing project.

The LLDA asked Bantay Kalikasan to apply for an ECC and LLDA clearance within 30 days. The MWSS, which was fined P5,000 per year of violation, was also required to secure an LLDA clearance.

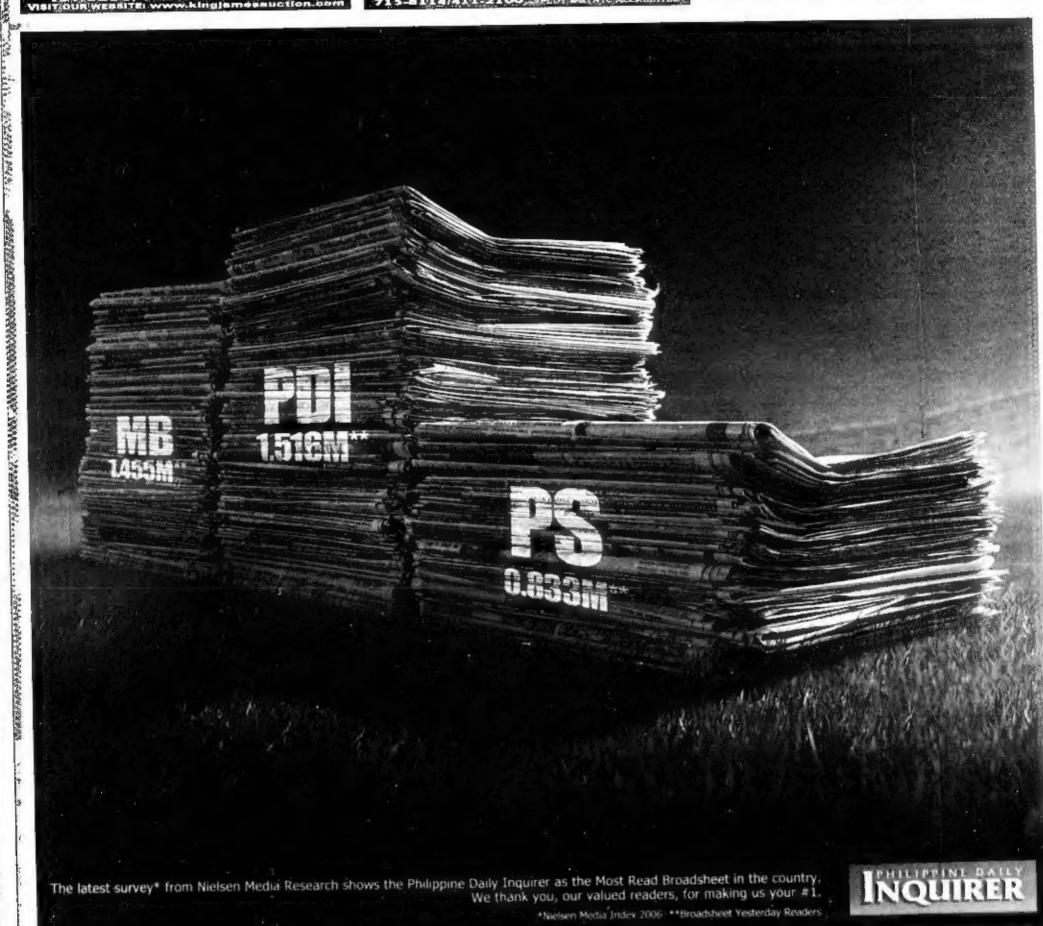
Former Department of Environment and Natural Resources chief Elisea Gozun, who ABS-CBN Foundation chair Gina Lopez claims had told the group that an ECC was "not required," denied exempting the La Mesa Ecopark from obtaining the necessary environmental permits. Bantay Kalikasan is part of the ABS-CBN Foundation.

"I really do not recall having said that ... You know that all development projects require. an ECC. I would never have said anything contrary to our own regulations," Gozun told the In-QUIRER in a phone interview.

What I would have done had I known there had been an application (for an ECC) was to facilitate the issuance," Gozun

Bantay Kalikasan leads the "Save La Mesa Coalition" opposed to the housing project for 1,411 employees of the MWSS for fear domestic wastes would contaminate the reservoir, the main source of drinking water for Metro Manila's 12 million residents.





# Tax raps vs Juday upheld; arraignment set today

JUDY ANN SANTOS

By Cynthia D. Balana

MOVIE ACTRESS JUDY ANN Sentos, popularly known as "Juday," will be arraigned today by the Court of Tax Appeals after the Department of Justice upheld the findings of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) that she had incurred income tax deficiency of P2.714 million in 2002 "to the prejudice of the government."

The arraignment was set by the CTA after Santos' "Motion to Reconsider the Denial of her Motion to Quash the Information" was rejected by the latter for lack of merit, the BIR said.

In her motion for reconsideration, Santos claimed that she was grossly denied right to due pro-

cess; that the information failed to allege the elements constituting the offense charged; and that the prosecuting attorney has no authority to file the case.

The DOJ said it found no merit for a reinvestigation of the case after a preliminary investigation found a reasonable ground to believe that tax evasion had been committed by the actress when she failed to declare her combined income from the ABS-CBN television network, Viva Productions and Star Cinema.

According to the DOJ resolution dated Oct. 1, 2005, Santos had "willfully unlawfully and feloniously" filed a false and fraudulent tax return for 2002 by indicating therein a gross income of P8.033 million when her correct income was P16.396 million, or a difference of P8.362 million.

The CTA assumed jurisdiction of the case since the amount involved was more than P1 million in tax deficiency. A bail of P20,000 was recommended for Santos' temporary liberty.

Aside from a string of movies to her credit, Santos has done several product endorsements for 555 Sardines, Leonardo Bags, Angel Evaporated Milk, Fitrum, Piltel, AMA Computer Learning Center, Pacific Blue Shades, and San Miguel Beer, among others.

She was also the lead star of Krystala, a 30minute fantasy series aired by ABS-CBN during the first quarter of 2005.

# Jail officials told to identify youth offenders

By Norman Bordadora

INTERIOR SECRETARY RONALDO PUNO has asked the country's jail officials to coordinate with the Public Attorney's Office to identify the juveniles still languishing in adult jails incread of being rehabilitated in youth homes.

instead of being rehabilitated in youth homes.

Under Republic Act 9344 or the Juvenile Justice System Act, which was signed into law by the President last April 28, children in conflict with the law shall undergo diversion programs like counseling, capacity building, training and socio-civic work under the DSWD's supervision instead of being detained in jail.

Puno said many juvenile inmates or children in conflict with the law in the provincial prisons have yet to be transferred to the rehabilitation centers run by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

"I have instructed officials of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology to help speed up the release of juvenile offenders who have remained in prison because of pending coun orders," Puno said.

"The BJMP should coordinate with PAO to find out what legal obstacles need to be hur dled to facilitate the quick release of these juve niles still languishing in adult jails," he added.





Thursday, May 18, 2006 5th Week of Easter John I

1st Reading: Gospel: Acts 15:7-21 John 15:9-11 "As the Father

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Pather has loved me, so I have loved you; remain in my love. You will remain in my love if you keep my commandments, just as I have kept my Pather's commandments and remain in his love.

"I have told you all this, that my own joy may be in you and your joy may be complete."

Commentary

Peter stands and announces that the Spirit makes no distinction, purifying the Gentiles' hearts by means of faith, much the same as their own hearts. They should not have an added burden laid on them, a yoke that is unnecessary. Poul and Barnabas speak, and then James the elder of the Jerusalem Church. He concurs and asks only that the Gentiles refrain from what is impure. It is decided. And Jesus is clear that there is only one commandment that all the others must serve to highlight; love one another as I have loved you; and you will know

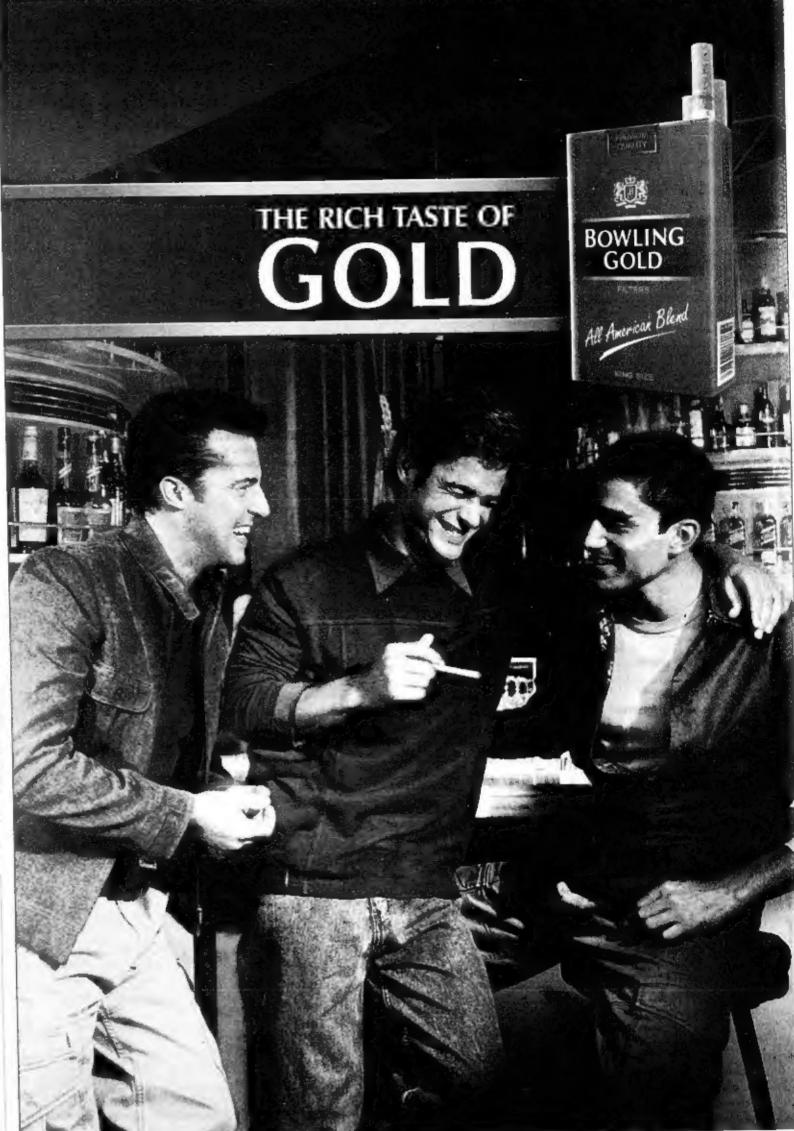
the joy of Gad.

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### **Madame Miriam**

ANY JOURNEY INTO THE DESERT TO GAIN self-control or grow in wisdom. Jesus famously spent 40 days in the desert to be tested by the devil. Unfortunately for our democratic experiment, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago joined President Macapagal-Arroyo on her state visit to Saudi Arabia and emerged from the desert as, well, a fortune-teller, a la Madame Au-

We do not know whether this is a sign that she was shown the kingdoms of the world and EDITORIAL liked what she saw, or whether she is

simply learning to turn the stone of political reality into the bread of political opportunity. Perhaps she is still working out her response to the second of Jesus' three temptations in the desert. Jump from the temple top, and wait for the angels to catch you. Maybe she could not wait, and decided to feather the ground, so

to speak, to cushion her fall. "I don't want to forfeit by default my duty to help write the new Constitution," Santiago said last week, rather unexpectedly, by way of explaining her readiness to vote together with the House majority to convene a constituent assembly. This came as a surprise, because until last week we did not realize she thought she was elected in 2004 to

write a new Constitution in 2006. But this much we know: When she returned to the country over the weekend, the feisty senator suddenly predicted the demise of the Senate-not next year, not by 2010, but in two months' time, by July. (It would have been even more stunning if she had decided to put more distance between the living and the dead, and resigned, but we suppose there are limits even to fortune-

telling.) Naturally, her pronouncement got the attention of the media, which is of course part of the point. Unlike the country's many fortune-tellers, however, the lawyer-senator had a lawyerly caveat: "Between May 15 when the present session resumes, and July 24 when a new regular session begins, the Supreme Court will have enough time to hear and decide a test case on the House resolution to convene as a constituent assembly," she said. If—a big if, it turns out, even in her own estimation—the high court rules that the two chambers of Congress can in fact vote jointly when they are convened as a constituent assembly, then the Senate will be history by July. If not, then, well, she was merely belaboring the obvious.

Surely even Santiago, who famously used to eat death threats for breakfast, can see that the basis for her prediction is too thin, without sustenance. But this has not stopped her from issuing more statements.

This week, she made a rather unusually public attempt at number-crunching. The abolition of the Senate and the adoption of a unicameral parliamentary system, she said, would save the country some P5 billion in the next five

Her arithmetic is suspect, not only because it (again) is conditional but also because her approach to math is all too political.

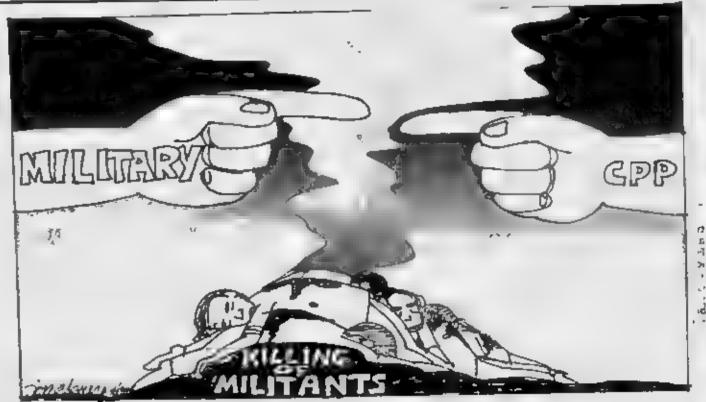
It doesn't bother her if the Senate were abolished, she said, because after all her colleagues were not elected fair and square. "If Senate elections do not truly reflect the people's will, let us abolish the Senate and move up in our political evolution," she said.

Apparently, the crystal ball she dug out of the desert not only allows her to read the future, it allows her to divine

the past. She made an astonishing claim: Survey tail-enders somehow ended up topping the Senate race. "That can only be explained either by money or by magic. So how can certain senators adopt a moral stance with respect to President Macapagal-Arroyo's election?" she asked Because she ended up in the (for her) unfamiliar place of seventh (in other words, right in the undistinguished middle), we suppose that she has no quarrel with the re-

We wonder what she would have thought of the abolition of the Senate if she had topped the last elections. Perhaps she wouldn't have gone to the deserts of Arabia in the first place.

But the Issue is Santiago as fortune-teller, Aside from the shock value she provided, there really isn't much to recommend her in her new role. We suggest she keep her day job.



## Whipping boy and tutorials

THERE'VE BEEN REACTIONS FROM ABROAD to issues that rock this muntry. Here are some of the more pointed comments:

From Sheikh Jarrah, in Jerusalem, Israel, Ma Teresa Alang writes: "Your Inquirer column Bogus prophery' carried by ENQ7 met, strips the façade covering the swindle mistabeled as 'Charter change.' But it overlooks one point: Our politicisms make a basically sound Constitution into a whipping boy to escape lashing.

The President to the lowliest congressment dump on the Charter all problems, from lack of investments to legislative gridlock. No one refers to their avarice and corruption. Congress, for example, hasn't passed a law to bun dynasties, much less one to authorize a 'people's initiative.' And I'm not even talking about ferrilizer scerns, pork berrel, etc.

"A people's initiative or constituent assembly will not result in change. It means more of the same oppression by the same oppressors. The Constitution has not failed us. We have failed the Constitution, starting with the President."

Dr. Manolo Abella led the United Nations office on migration until his recent retirement. From Vancouver in Canada, he writes

"Dr Tessa Tan Torres, a Filipino professional working with WHO, called my attention to your column, 'Crutches anyone?' on overseas foreign workers' remittances. I'm glad these questions are being raised, suggesting to goverament that we need more than just to rely on these inflows.

While many observers (especially sociologists) lament conspicuous consumption by remistance-receiving households, the fact is that people act rationally. Note that remittances rise when times are hard-motivated by aitruism, unlike speculative capital which is very nervous

"World Bank studies show that migrant households do not have a consumption behav ux any different from non-migrant households with the same income. Like you and me, they'll invest their hard-earned money in something sure: children's education, better housing, bet

I REMEMBER THAT IT WAS POPCY LAGMAN

and not Satur Ocumpo who did not particular-

ly want Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to succeed

Erap during Edsa II. Lagman's position was "Resign All," a slogan its marchers should in

Mendiola and painted on walls, a call for both

Erap and Gloria to resign to pave the way for

new elections. Lagman's argument was that

the entire Erap administration, in which GMA

belonged and had acquiesced by silence, if not

by active cooperation, had betrayed the public

trust. It should be abolished in full. He called

for Hilario Davide to head a caretaker govern-

It was Bayan Muna that thought otherwise,

agreeing to GMA becoming president for many

reasons. Not the least of it was that after playing

it safe for a while, GMA had finally come out

and plotted with them (they have proof of it,

and frankly I cannot understand why they do

not belahor the point) as well indeed as with the

camp, the "Resign All" position being promptly

shoved aside. Well, Bayan Muna might have

Kataksilan" (treachery) is the word govern-

ment has used in a documentary purporting to

show a Left-Right conspuracy against GMA,

which presumably justified—and should justify

in future emergency rule. That is all very well,

except for one thing. Who has betrayed whom?

country has been persecuted with impreerous

zeal by government than Bayan Muna. The

"murderous" is by no stretch of the imagination

metaphorical. Last Saturday night, gunmen

shot and killed Manuel Nardo in a karaoke bar

in Pampanga, bringing to an eye-popping 93 the

number of Bayan Musia members killed since

GMA took power, and to 123 the number of left

ers killed over the same period. Almost unbe-

lievably, Nardo was the fourth leftist to die by a

bullet in five days, turning the murders into a

And despite the fact that the Supreme Court

near-daily thing.

Over the past year, no other group in this

Ocampo's side won over Legenan's in the Left

ment and preside over snap elections.

military to oust Erap. She was an ally

won the battle, but it has lost the war

VIEWPOINT Juan L. Mercado

They will not risk it in small projects that are bleely to collapse. Small enterprises have a notonously high turnover rate everywhere in the world. What alternatives are there for a recipient of small remittances?

Our NGOs are excited about small projects. I don't hold much hope in these projects. Investing in another transport vehicle, like a jeepney, or anothez grocery may do some good for the migrant's family. But it will be at the expense of another jeepney or grocery owner who loses his or her share of a small market

It will only be when we have a better devel oped capital market that one can hope for mobilining remittances for financing development Our financial institutions still have to come up with ways of developing secondary markets for morrgages and the like

Our local governments can, perhaps, make it happen faster if they issue high-interest bonds to obtain financing for infrastructure develop-

Because they are stable, remittances offer an opportunity to reduce the cost of borrowing (through securitization) in the international market for finance. A one-percent reduction in the cost of our borrowing can amount to hundreds of milhors in debt servicing costs."

From the United States, Glenn Taylor writes Thanks for your column, Tales of two cities."

Two main points, in particular, struck home "(a) The need 'to mount sustained policies and programs to make cities engines for economic growth and at the same livable," and (b) Toremost is the leadership value of the local government officials,' Asian Institute of Management says. Next is 'a strong sup-

port system, offered by business alitances and responsive civil society."

My wife and I are currently engaging in a partnership with the local government of her hometown, Barotac Viejo, Boilo. The mayor, Rand Tupas, and the council are supportive

"Our parmership with the LGU concerns development of new infrastructure and lifestyle fa cilities for the community, specifically an integrated transport terminal, wet/dry markets and actractive shopping centers and surroundings.

We hope these will reduce pollution, traffic congestion, provide jobs, more efficient farm-romarket distribution for producers, be a source of community public services, including an open and maintained park and riverside walkway.

From Bangkok, retired ship captain Ariston Roxas and his wife Justin read the column, "Ringly power," on the That monarch. They sent back a rollicking article: "All I Really Need To Know I Learned in Philippine Politics." The author was not given. But here are some "tutotisi"

"1 Voting is a right here but getting counted ıs a privilege

2. When children of deposed leaders like imee Marcos or Jinggoy Estrada insist that current Palace occupants are thieves and crooks, believe them. They've been there

 If a journalist writes something deemed offensive, they call it libe! When a lawmaker says something defamatory they rail it privilege

"4. In UP, they are referred to as "hard-line activists', In Mendiola, they are 'hardcore milimats.' In Congress, they're party-list representatives. Simply put, there are no communists

'S. The State of the Nation Address is when the country's most prominent and influential lians come together to listen to the country's biggest dat

6. The pork barrel per so is not evil or cor rupt. Lawronkers are.

8-mail: juan\_mercado@pacific.net.ph

# 'Kataksilan'

#### THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



has junked PP 1017, releasing the "Barasan 5" from their congressional prison, Raul Gonzalez continues to dangle a legal sworth over their heads. As things stand now though, that is probebly the least of their worries. The first is the real award dangling over their heads, as shown by the mounting body count of Bayon Muna members.

You can't have a graver case of treachery than that. But the treathery goes beyond Bayan Moon to the nation uself

The reason for singling out Bayan Musta for persecution is easy to see. It is the "weakest ink" in terms of public acceptance among those opposing GMA. It can be persecuted with nearimpunity, the public being expected (not entirely wrongly) to not lift a finger to stop it in the belief (completely wrongly) the mayhem can happen only to "them" and not to "us." That was what the Nazis did in the 1930s, trot mit a scapegoat in the Jews and Bolsheviks whom they hasped together as one. The Jews were presumably behind Solshevism, a barry idea now but which the Nazis sold completely earnestly, and especially feroclously, at the time It's a classic template for tyration.

The case against the Batasan 5 alone is a monumental case of selective retribution. At the very least, when makes it so is that GMA is the last person to have a right to rail against Left-

Right conspirators. She was one At the very most, what makes it so is that the government has no lack of people to arrest and iall in the attempted "withdrawal of support" last Sebruary. There's more prima-facie evidence against them. The "withdrawal of support" was never a secret, it openly and loudly advertised itself, appealing to the public for sup-

port. But the government cannot go after its leaders because it stands to prove only that their "coup" would have been the most popular coup in the world, having the blessings of most Fil minos. There are not enough julk in this country to hold those who want GMA out and are actively plotting to make it so

But it's the killings that are truly terrifying This lim't just routine anurder, this is wholesule slaughter More than journalists, it's the leftists that are being butchered like chickens, to quote a phrase used by one of them. And less than journalists, nobody is lifting a voice to protest it, or a finger to stop it. If there is anything more terrifying than those killings, it is the silence of the nation in the face of it

Doubtless, they themselves are partly to blame for that lack of sympathy from the public You murder your own comredes and gleefully mast it before the public, that public un't going to send its lamentations to heaven, or to the world, when you yourself are murdered. But this is a case that goes beyond liking the victims or taking sides. This is a case where the victim is the nation uself.

What we're seeing today is not just the murder of leftists, it is the murder of human rights, the very thing we fought bitterly to retake from Marcos. As we saw then, the right to assemble, to freely express ourselves, indeed to continue to exist on this earth, is not a luxury, like tea, it is a necessity, like breath. What we're seeing today is not just the murder of activists, it is the murder of democracy, its chilling message being addressed not just to the activists but to anyone who would oppose a creeping decentorship: This is the fate that awaits you." What we're seeing today is not just the murder of Bayan Mona members, it is the murder of all that is decent and good in this country. Look at Nazl Germany and see what happens to a people who agree to the killing of other people in the thought that it has nothing to do with them.

Ask not for whom the bell tells, it tells for you. Ask not who lies in the red-draped coffin,

# Cultural interaction from around the globe

for Training and Research in Live Performing Arts of Burkina Passo arrived in Muñoz City, Nueva Ecija, Luzon's science center, to start a three-day cultural interaction with folks from that region. The visiting dramatists will conduct a workshop on classical and indigenous African drama and acting methodology for the local faculty and anidents. In turn, the townspeople will treat them to a cultural fare that includes interpretative dances by students of the Central Luzon State University around the theme of plenting and harvesting of rice, and the Bungkos Palay Dance Troupe of Mayor Nestor Alvarez. The visitors may even do some rice planting in the rain.

Burkina Passo is a small Prench-speaking country of 10 million in West Africa. But in the next two days its drama people will be treated by Muñoz officials, led by Mayor Alvarez and townsfolk, to traditional Filipino hospitality and an array of native talents.

They are part of the 150 top university faculty and students from 12 drama institutions around the world participating in the World Pestival of Drama Schools. The festival is a mafor event of the 32nd Unesco-International Theater Institute (ITI) World Congress, which is being held in Asia for the first time in ITI's 58 years. The Philippines won the bid to host this biennial world cultural Olympics in the last congress in Tampico. Mexico, two years ago.

The festival borrowed from the successful SEA Games here. Instead of being confined to Metro Manila, the cultural events are being distributed around the country in order to maximize exposure of the host cities and the guests to each other. The idea of a "Theater for All" along the theme of cultural diversity and art as a tool for social development was conceptualized by Unesco education chair Dr. Corneliu Dumitriou, ITI Philippines president Cacille Guidona Avance and festival directors. dent Cecile Guidote-Alvarez and festival director Nick Uzaso. The 11 participating RP cities were chosen for the strong presence of educational in-stitutions and cultural traditions in their regions. Lizaso said an average of seven schools are partici-

POLITICAL TIDBITS Belinda

Olivares-Cunanan

turn! boon this will be for our faculty and students.

Yesterday Docos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson sent his private plane to fly dramatists from the Na-tional School for Dramatic Arts of Lima, Peru, to sity of Northern Philippines in the lead. He as-

Baguio, with its dense concentration of

Legazpi City interacts with the Shanghai The ater Academy of China. Students of Bicol University will show off the legends of Mayon in dance and drama, but observers are expected also from Camarines and Sorsogon, Cagayan de Oro City, seat of Xavier University, will receive Rumania's National University of Drama and Film, named after LL, Caragiaie, a famous actor. Participants are expected from as far as fligan City and Bukidnon, and Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno

Iloilo City hosts the Karpenko-Kary Kylv Na tional University of Theater, Cinema and Televi-sion of the Ukraine, with the University of San Agustin in the lead, while Puerto Princesa City interacts with the theater department of Singa-pore's Nanyang Academy of Pine Arts. Mayor Edward Hagedora personally picked Singapore doubtless because of its clean and green image, just like his city. Davao City, seat of Ateneo de Davao, asked to host the faculty of Dramatic and Music Arts of Teheran University, perhaps due to its large Muslim population, but observers are expected from as far as General Santos City and

Philippine tourism should get a big boost from this event. Last night, all 11 regions were simultaneously linked up with their respective visitors' countries by webcast, as they commenced the cultural performances. Moreover, each foreign delegation will be filming its expe riences and all of these films will be compiled at the Unesco headquarters in Paris for worldwide dissemination. The delegates' treasure trove of RP memories will include a visit to a Unesco World Heritage Site in their region. Por instance, the South Africa drama group will be taken from isabels to Banatie to see the worldfamous Ifugao Rice Terraces, while the Ukraniamous ringao ruce terraces, while the Unitary
an group will visit Mag-An Church in Hollo. The
Singapore group will visit the Underground
River in Palawan while the Chinese will get to expoy the world's most perfect cone.

One of the highlights of the congress will be the interaction in Bobol today between the heavenly voices of the Loboc Choir and Mexion's famed Chimalli Choir. The latter was formed by Mexico's Meced Program, which takes care of Mexican children "in especially difficult circumstances." Its members are carefully selected from auditions held in 15 municipalities. From Loboc, the two choirs will be brought to Manila to sing at the dinner to be tendered by President Macapagal-Arroyo for the delegates on May 22, and the opening of the Leaders' Forum, led by Unesco executive director Koichiro Matsuura, on May 23.

### Permanent disability

MY MOTHER IS SOPT-SPOKEN, BUT SHE STANDS HER ground on issues that most people shy away from. Just recently, our barangay captain asked her to aga up for the campaign launched by the supporters of President Macapagai-Arraya. Realizing that it was the signature campaign, which the Arroyo administration unashamedly calls the people's initiative, my mother declined, saying she was against

morning, while we were enjoying the cool morning breeze, my sunt's house belp, Are Mile, mentioned that my cousin had asked her to sign a piece of paper, My cousin, a barangay official, told her it

Leo Rey F. Almero

YOUNG BLOOD

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed was the minutes of the recent barangay assembly. Ate Mile

signed a yellow piece of paper and another white sheet My mother, who is the barangay treasurer, told her the yellow paper was indeed the minutes of the barengay assembly, but the other one was for the signature campaign. When tord that it called for Charter change and the possible extension of GMA's term, Are Mile protested in our native tongue: "I did not know that! I wasn't told it was for that purpose. We will be going backward, if she does not step down."

That's people's initiative for you, Whatever the Arroyo administration officials say, the only ones they manage to convince are themselves. But that is not surprising. For two years now, the squatter in Malacañang has been convincing herself that she is the legitimate President.

I guess it is not difficult for her to convince herself that she is indeed the President. After all, the candidate I voted for is dead and the duly elected president is also dead. She has Garcillano, Gonzalez and Defensor to defend her, and they are such brilliant, logical and truthful people!

When I wrote in my biog what I thought about the current political situation, my dentist wrote back to ask why I was so angry with GMA. She was surprised because I had taken part

I replied that I was not fighting for GMA then, but I was there, like many others, to protest against President Joseph Estrada's conduct. I never questioned GMA's constitutiona. right to succeed to the presidency; I had to respect what the Constitution mandated, even though I never liked her Now, what I am questioning is her legitimacy, and her behavior and that of Jose Pidal and Jose Pidal Jr.

And she has the temerity to push for the revision of the

She started by creating a commission, which was not even permitted by the Constitution. Moreover, on the day we were supposed to attend the assembly sponsored by the commission. I received a call from a classmate who told me that attendance was by invitation. We had to represent a sector of the community to be admitted to the convention center in the capitol where the assembly was being heid. Well, that's consultation for you

Now here romes Speaker Jose de Venecia announcing that by July this year, we would already have a parliamentary government. No surprise there. Even before I was qualified to vote, I already knew that the Speaker had dreams that were bigger than Dumbo's. They are such big dreams that W even a Comeler official was surprised by them. The official pointed out that it would take some time to verify the signatures, and the Comesec would need almost P3 billion to do it. and then conduct a plebiscite.

Someone ought to tell our people that the money they paid for the expanded value-added tax will be used to sotisfy the whims of those who want to change the Constitution in order to fulfill their dreams of: (1) having a graceful exit, (2) extending their stay in power, (3) at last, becoming the head of the government, or (4) al. of the above

But I am not really worried, for several reasons. The first is that the Senate, or at least the more sensible members of that chamber, will not let GMA and the House of Representatives bully them into changing the Constitution. The senators are more knowledgeable about the Constitution, while most congressmen seem to be uninformed or misinformed (or pretending to be either, which is ideotic) about the provisions

of the Constitution The second reason is that the Supreme Court, the vanguard of the Constitution, is still there. And I pray that it will continue to perform its noble task of defending the Constitution. I have faith in the Supreme Court even though most of ats members have been appointed by GMA. And that faith has been strengthened by their decisions on Executive Order 464 and Presidential Proclamation 1017

But my best reason for believing Charter change will not happen soon is that the people are very well aware of the current political situation. The surveys show that a big percentage of Filipinos do not only want GMA to resign but atso want the Constitution to stay as it is. In fact, a classmate told me that his boss, an elected government official and a known GMA supporter, is against the revision of the Constirution. Of course, I cannot verify that, but if it's true, kudos

As to some Filipinos living abroad who say that GMA is the best person to lead the country, I would believe it only if they said that after living here for a few months. The Filipino is inrelligent, and there is no doubt about that. Only the administration says that Filipinos are more concerned about what they have on their tables. Such demeaning atterances could come only from officials who do not value the people's opin-

Only administration officials say that the people still want GMA to lead the country, that she was put there by God, that she is the best person to lead the country and that the only solution to all the problems of the country is the revision of the Constitution. But these statements are little more than the incoherent babbling of persons who are prone to self-deception, like someone who continues to believe in the legitimacy of her presidency.

Does that constitute permanent disability? And that is one legitimate ground for removing her from office

Leo Rey & Almero, 23, graduated from the Ateneo de Manila University in 2003 and is now taking up law at the the University of Nueva Coceres in Naga City.

#### NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@majuirencomph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the posttion you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously nublethed.

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pating per region. It's easy to see what a great col-

Vigan for cultural interaction, with the Universured them the natives won't need Spanish interpreters since Vigan has preserved a generour share of Hispanic culture. Another city with a rich Hispanic past, Zamboanga, is hosting the theater faculty of Veracruzana University in Mexico, and doubtless the natives will put to good use their chabacano, a pidgin Spanish that's bound to shock and awe the visitors.

schools, will host the National School of Drama of India, while Santiago City in Isabela, under Mayor Amelita Navarro, will interact with the drama department of South Africa's University of Cape Town. Twelve Isabela schools, led by La Saliette University, will participate, but observers are expected from all over Cagayan Valley.

has prepared a fireworks show.

Culion: The nuns' story (1)

THIS MONTH AND YEAR, CULION ISLAND IN Palawan marks its 100th anniversary as a place where lepers of yore were shipped and confined for most of their aves. Culion, once the biggest seper colony in the world, is a leper colony no more. It is now a thriving island municipality. The new generation no longer bears the marks of the dreaded disease that medical science has finally icked. The scars are still there, no doubt, but the place and its people have long begun the journey

toward healing I was one of those who helped write the hand-zome coffee-table book, "Culion Island A Leper Colony's 100-Year Journey Toward Healing," The experience was rewarding indeed. Here are ex-cerpts from "The Nuns' Story," one of the pieces

The sea was calm when the four French Sisters of Saint Paul of Chartres (SPC) boarded the ship that would take them from Manila to their masion assignment: Culion Island. With prayers on their lips and faith in their hearts, they bravely sailed forth, "to consecrate ourselves for the care of the poor lepers."

Founded in Leverville la Chenard in France in 1696 "to instruct the ignorant and assist the afflicted," the sisters were to become "gleaners," to look after the last, the least. The first Sisters of Saint Paul of Chartres arrived in the Philippines in 1904. Two years later, four of them would em-

bark on a mission among the outcasts The SPC nurs were responding to the call of the Apostolic Delegate, Monsignor Ambrose Agtus, OSB. They would be the first Catholic nuns to in that direction. Por some time, they would be the only nurses working there

Sister Sidonie Hureau, the superior, Sister Marie de Bon Pasteur Lintot, Sister Calixte Christen and Sister Therese de Jesus sailed for that remore island at 2 o'clock in the afternoon of May 22, 1906. Several hours later, the sea turned rough and stayed that way tratil the ship reached its destination. But the journey was not without he sight and hilarious moments. For the nuns, the





experience at sea was a forecaste of the difficult but fulfilling Church mission in Culion that would continue throughout the century.

The nurs arrived in Culion toward the evening of May 25, 1906, two days ahead of their wards. Dr. Carlos de May, director of the Colony (1903-1907), welcomed them with a lantern in his hand, lighting the path to their "new" dwelling where bets felt at home. Several times, in that semi-darkness, the nuns stumbled on the steep and narrow path.

"We viewed with great interest the panorama that unfolded before us," one of the nuns later wrote in French. "No matter where we looked, we saw chains of mountains. Opposite us, the moun tain slope was strewn with houses in the middle of clumps of trees. This was Balaia where employres of the Bureau of Health would settle. In the part of the island extending to our left, there were more houses stretching out from the top of the mountain to its base. Only six were constructed with boards whitened with lime. All others were made of nipa (palm fronds). At the far end, on a sort of headland going to the sea, there stood the church with its old ramparts which made it look like a castle. Near it shone the lighthouse."

The view was great, but in the beginning there was little food—and so much work to do. As one pioneering nun exclaimed: "We felt like true missionaries since we lacked food!"

The sisters met the first boatload of lepers that arrived on May 27, 1906. The second batch at rived two months later on July 4. The first year was hard as there was only one doctor whose admanistrative duties left him little time for the patients. The sisters had to fill in the gap, doing even amputations and minor dental work. They spoke

mostly Prench and a little English and had no knowledge of the local languages

Other problems were tack of personnel, medical facilities and supplies and the constant threat of beri-beri. Nature was not always at its best The sisters experienced a strong typhoon in 1910 and a landslide in 1916

But something graver concerned the sisters The forced separation of the patients from their families and life as virtual exiles brought extreme toneliness. The marriage ban at that time and the loose separation of the sexes posed a problem. There was a rise in illegiturate births

The nuns formed the Children of Mary and worked for suitable housing for the women. Still, strict separation gave rise to restreeness among the patients. The sisters had to bear the situation until the marriage ban was lifted in 1910

Marriages gave birth to new problems. What to with the offspring of leprous parents who could not care for them? And when the Culion authorities wanted to send the children declared clean to Manila, their parents protested in 1916, the authorities decided to build a

nursery in Culion for children born to leprous parents. The SPC nums would run the nursery to which the babies were brought right after birth We wrapped the babies with only their faces showing for their snothers to see," recalled a mun

Even the mans had to exercise strict hygiene Those who worked with the patients had to step on a disinfecting solution and change clothes be-

fore entering the nursery

The purerus could view their children through glass penels in the nursery. There was no physical contact. Sometimes an attendant would provide a small gift for a child, have it on a stick that would breach the divide. It was hearthreaking. More so when toddlers, not used to seeing pa tients, suddenly saw, through the glass, the deformed faces of their parents. Many would cower fear and say, "Kakatakat "(Pearsome) (To be continued)

Send feedback to cerespe@info.com.ph

# The tar baby

WHAT WAS ORCHESTRATED ALONG THE tines of Lenet Reifenstahl's propaganda master-piece "Triumph of the Will" (her film of the 1934 Nuremberg rally of the Nazis) has turned into a scene straight out of Walt Disney's "Song of the South," in particular, the fable of Brer Rabbit and the Tur Baby, in which a for gets the goat of a rootin' tootin' but rather vain rabbit by setting up a baby made of tar along the side of the road. The rabbit, spotting the tar beby tries to strike up a conversation, and gets frustrated over the tar ba-by's silence. The rabbit tries to beat up the tar baby, but with every kick and punch, he gets more and more stuck until the fox comes out and taunts the rabbit. The lesson, of course, is that you shouldn't mess with something you have no business with in the first place.

Charter change, as originally scripted, was supposed to result in the intimidating yet seductive spectacle of a population rising up to reclaim democracy, it was going to be breathtaking and unstoppable. It was like putting a Japanese bullet train on Philippine National Railways tracks. Pull the train whistie all you like, make all the speeches in the world, bring out the brass bands, publish all the glossy timetables you desire, and still, the result is what we have: each and saliva don't a popular initiative make; popularity does. And it simply wasn't-and isn't-popular enough. The Sigawing Bayan bullet trum was all about shouting and found itself stuck in time-tested tracks. Now it as being subjected to what real-world PNR trains reg-

ularly endure: an assault from the public From the start, everyone from the stationmenter down to the locomotive driver and conductor were told it simply wouldn't work: the Constitution is like our narrow-gauge milroad tracks and putting a shirty bullet train there was an exercise in futility. Perhaps the President hoped, and some of her people promised, that the train would magnetically, or even magically, levitate over the tracks, perhaps they read "The Little Engine That Could" once too often, but reality has a hersh way of intruding into zany schemes and the people's initiative has THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

proven exactly that: too zamy to work. Now, like some folksy tincle Remus (the char cter in "Song of the South" who tells the Brer Rabbit fables) sitting in the caboose watching all the fuss, some of the President's allies decided in tell the story of the tar baby and encivinced the powers that be that Charter change through a people's initiative is an unwinnable fight. You don't need a bullet train, the old PNR engine will do. Rev it up enough, and it will smash its way through anything in its path. And while perhaps the Lambinos and Bengzons of the present have invested too much, emotionally or otherwise, in the vain hope of making their bullet train fly, they can be left trying while the prox try something else, le's like a variation on a math problem: If engine A leaves station 1, traveling to point B at 20 kph, and engine B leaves station 2, traveling to point he at 10 kph, which engine will arrive at point B first? The correct, political answer it: It doesn't matter. The government owns both engines, so whichever one gets there first can be proclaimed a win-win triumph of transportation.

The Strong Republic railroad.

Just the other day, a foreign journalist interviewing me for a series on the political situation remarked, in between takes, "You know, I've been trying to get hold of a government spokesmen but

no one is replying." I told him that perhaps the government was still formulating its message. He said that was

The new message is being broadcast foud and

clear It's the Degupen Express all the way! The

some versions of the tar baby fable have as their ending. Having been taunted by the for, Bret Rabbit recovers his wits, begs the fox to throw hen into a briar patch, and the sadistic fox complies, not realizing the rabbit can handle the thorny leaves and he can't chase him through the briars. Brer Rabbit gets thrown into the briar patch and has the last laugh. So who is Brer Rabbic, who is Brer Pox, and

Charter change express has shifted engines, that's

all. And it's good to consider, at this point, what

who is the tar baby? It depends on whom you ask I happen to think Brer Rabbit is the President, Br er Fox is the Speaker, and the tar baby is the pub lie and its hostility to the so-called people's initia tive. Then again, our Loony Tunes political situation means the big players, as various points in time, play the role of the rabbit and the fox—at times all fight and bloff, at other times, engaging in crafty cumming and plotting. And every one of them, at whichever time they want to play the fox, cam create as many tar babies as they please And each time they decide to be the rabbit, they expect to ourwit the fox. And as for you and well, sometimes one has to be thankful for the tar babies.

Whether we're watching the Brer rabbits or foxes and their tar baby games, you have to wonder how that will affect your reality. Looking at that shing, noisy but useless "people's initiative" sitting dead in its tracks, makes you wunder how much of our taxes went to what is a spectacularly (ailed experiment. And watching the happy face of the Speaker as he wets his whistle, you have to wonder, too: Will that Dagupan Express remove the mones and dirt, the cracked and unestable grains, from NRA rice at P15 to P20 a kilo? What s cheap shouldn't necessarily be of inferior quality. And at P5.50 to P6.50 a pack, instant noodles are more affordable and cleaner than what the governmem cam provide

And that's the true moral of the tale: a constitution doesn't provide edible rice. People de. But if

they're wrestling tar bables, well

### **OPINION**

# Working abroad should be one of the many available options

er's position and recommendation regarding the plight of our overseas Pilipino workers. ("A politician's gift," PDI, 5/12/06)

Indeed, it is the duty of the government to provide protection for its migrant workers and to negotiate pro-migrant agreements with OFW-host countries like Soudi Arabia. This is imperative to prevent the oppression and maltreatment of our modernday heroes.

As the Arroyo administration pushes Filipino workers to go abroad so that they can feed their families and bring stability to our economy, it should pursue as well a parallel mechanism to protect them

Unfortunately, after more than

THIS IS IN SUPPORT OF INQUIR- three decades of state-promoted migration, the Philippine government's performance in forging pro-migrant bilateral labor agreements with labor-receiving countries remains poor; until now, it has a zero batting average. Worse, lts negotiating power is limited to lowering the minimum standards of protection and benefits of mierant workers in order to make the hiring of Pilipino workers more attractive to labor-receiving

This is not to mention the inability of the government to fully address the many problems besetting our OFWs, such as rape, maltreatment, contract violations, rempant filegal recruitment, trefficking and the social costs of mi-

The release of several hundreds Jalled OFWs in Saudi Arabis may be a cause for celebration, but at the same time it should prompt our legislators and law enforcers to rethink our polley on migration and to work for an economy that can provide gainful and sustainable local jobs to our millions of unemployed Filipino workers.

Working abroad should be just one of the options; it should not be the only option for our intelligent and industrious people.

-MARIA HELEN'T DARO, program coordinates, number and Advocacy Program, **Kanlungan Centre Poundation** Inc. (Contre for Migrant Workers), 77 K-10th Street, Karadas, Questa City

### Appearances do not make or unmake a crime

TO PARAPHRASE C.S. LEWIS, nowadaya, crime is not committed in dark, seedy alleys by suspictous-tooking gangsters but in well-nghted offices by neat-looking men in crisp shirts with clean fingernails. This is what makes evil all the more alluring-and harder to detect.

In real life, an obvious distinction of what good and bad really took like doesn't exist. This is the icsson we get, looking at the clean-shoven and-let's say it--good-looking soldiers in the Subte rape case

Rape, however, does not choose appearances-the victim's or the raput's. The victim will not always took tike an alluring princess eaught in a high tower, and the devil will not always have dirty hair, sinister eyes and horns to match. Rape is not a crime of hust or passion. It is first and foremost a crime of aggression and it chooses no one-whether besunfu., destrable or not. Rape is about domi-

is the kick of establishing power.

Just because a rapist has a "rame appearance," is "gentle and soft-spoken," celebrates birthdays, and/or has a family—as the news story "Fr. Reuter presents the 'other side' of the accused" (PDI, 4/29/06) shows—does not mean he is incapable of misdeeds or heinous crimes.

But as one lawyer of the case said: "The public should know that even though they look like tame pupples, they raped and abused a Filipina, treated har like a pig and threw her on the road. That is what they did. Let's not be fooled by looks."

We should remember that it's the victim who is on the losing and. In fact, in rape cases, we should believe the women precasely because it takes a lot of guts for her to even come out to a skeptical world and procialm what has been done to her.

An 80-year-old American priest

nation. The thrill one gets out of it of high stature "liking" these soldiers should not divert public focus against what these men really did, or are accused of doing. What happens in this country, as in all parriarchal societies, however, is that it is the woman who is made to prove her "innocence" and "puricu" It is as if she is the one tried and at fault. Her character, her habits, her work are scrutinized: "She is a prostitute, she wanted it, why did she even drink with them?" Her nocusers, on the other hand, are presented as clean and meek lambs. Now, that is the imbelance. Now, that is using media for propaganda.

These American soldiers are using Pr. James Reuter's reputation so that we can turn a blind eye to what they have been accused of doing. Our first responsibility is on give justice to the Pilioina woman who also has a human face, a loving family, a birthday and a name. -CAL MAJUANO,

denicas merieno@gmail.com



#### 'Spoon wars'

I AM A CANADIAN WORKING in the Philippines, I have been here for a while now and I still have a while to go. I have been reading the Inquests every day since my arrival and have been keeping abreast on this so-called "Issue" of "The Spoon Wars."

The statement of the Montreal reacher was in every way "out of line," I cannot imagine the comifications that it has had on her school and that of the Canadian schooling system. Acts of racism are not permitted in Canada in any form or from anyone. This probably would not have happened if the teacher had known that the use of spoon is a culturally distinct Filipino

Most Canadians are neither white nor big-nosed anoba, contrary to what the May 14 Talk of the Town cartoon suggested. And as far as actual eating habits go, I must say that we Canadians eat in a variety of ways-with forks and knives, or even with our bare hands when it comes to certain types of food.

I have found during my stay in the Philippines that the eating habits of the Pilipino people are far more polite than the average Canadian. So although I deeply disagree with the teacher in Montreal, I think that the issue has been blown out of proportion in the media, to the prejudice of Philippine-Canadian cultural rela-

We all need to understand a few larger here so that we may put this issue to rest and continue to enjoy the warm Philippine-Canadian relations that our two countries have established. We all are human beings. Each one of us is important. But we all make mistakes. And when we do, the best thing we can do is apolo-

We should trest this isolated incident and use it as an opportunity to highlight the positive differences between our two cul-

The Incurrent's Talk of the Town should have focused on the more preming concerns of the Pilipines. There are a lot more important things it can talk about on its pages than a spoon.

-- DAWN STAFRACE, desmutafrace@yehoo.com

#### WE, THE UNDERSIGNED NATIONal Dairy Authority (NDA)-VISAYAS employees, deplore the unjust dismissal of Administrator Salvacion

Injustice at National Dairy Authority

M. Bulacso-"SMB" so all of us at the NDA-from office. It should be emphasized that she was fired for ignoring bidding procedures twice, not for stealing public money.

The first transaction had to do with a consultancy engagement in September 2001. It was necessary to make four milk processing plants more efficient. The plants had been in the hands of dairy cooperatives for around 12 years without any rental being paid to government. Since there was no Filipino dairy engineer or technician in the country at that time, she and her colleagues in the NDA central office new that hiring a That consultant who was in the country would save money for the government. The stuff of NDA Operations and Pinance and Administration endorsed the transaction. The Commission on Audit subsequently cleared the

Barely a month in the organization then, SMB had to trust the system and go for results with the present impact on the industry, the dairy enterprises and on the NDA as a government-owned and controlled corporation. Today, all those plants are covered with lease-purchase contracts, the NDA is collecting rent and the enterorises are operating the plants at a

The second transaction had to do with a contract with McCann-Erickson. As a result of the engagement-facilitated by no lear than the author of the National Dairy Development Act of 1995 then Sen. Leticia R. Shahant-the local dairy industry

had its first set of professionally crafted promotion materials (including a TV commercial with Ogie Alcasid who appeared probono and the Original Pilipino Milk logo that has been adopted as the quality symbol of local msik producers)

Today, although the dairy sector is small, it is regarded as one of the achievers in the Department of Agriculture, SMB has been a dedicated, effective and bonest technocrat Records show that, with her at the helm of the NDA, the agency consistently

As Marcus Buckingham says, the only things that leaders have in common is that they break all the rules, John Maxwell adds, "Great leaders don't just buy into what everybody else is saying, and they don't follow the beaten (and In the case of government processes, often obsolete) path. Great leaders are constantly creating their own conditions for success by blazing new trails." This SMB has done.

We truly believe in SMB's integrity as a government servant and as an effective leader, and we hope that the powers-that-be review SMB's case and do right by her. We likewise suggest that a review be made on existing government procurement processes and rules, many of which in fact are not affective in preventing corruption. Further, some rules or processes are no longer relevant and actually slow down a nation aching for faster development.

-GRACE J. CENAS AND 18 OTHER **NATIONAL DAIRY** AUTHORITY EMPLOYEES

#### PPI is a solvent company

WOULD LIKE TO CLARIFY Alcuin Papa's report "Distressed pre-need firm would sell plans." (PDI, 5/10/06)

Pacific Plans Inc. (PPI) has stopped selling open-ended educotional plans way back in 1992 or 10 years before the Securities Exchange Commission banned pre-need companies from doing so. I think what was not stated in the report was that PPI would only sell fixed-value educational plans, alongside with its other products such as fixed-value memorial and fixed-value pen-

alon plans. The trust funds of these plans, which amount to P9,38 billion, exmed its total actuarial reserve liabilities of P8.95 billion. And the fact that the court has ordered an immediate approval of their (dealers) license and the SBC is

poised to do so (PDI, 12/12/05) means only one thing: PPI is a solwent company and is, therefore, capable of paying planholder ben-

1, too, enrolled my three children in PPI educational plans. But these are fixed-value plans. As a planholder, I believe that the company exists to serve Pilipinos here and abroad and, if it is allowed to sell these plans, I am confident that the company can deliver on their future obligations.

Banning PPI from selling fixedvalue plans would compromise the servicing of more than 400,000 fixed-value planholders as against the 32,000 open-ended planhoiders.

—OLIVER M. TANGARA, Purok 2, San Miguel, Tibungeo, Davan City, develop withollver@yahoo.com

### Marriage of convenience between dynasties and oligarchs

THIS IS A REACTION TO Manuel L. Quezon III's column "What's in it for you." (PDI, 5/4/06) Are we harping on the wrong side of the issues here? The Philippine political system is nothing but a marriage of convemence between the political dynasties and the Filipino oligarchs.

Nothing more The year MLQ III was born, the Pilipinos were standing in long queues to buy gas and rice, and I did a stint inside Fort Bonifacto pulling talabib grass for vi-

clating the curfew. I was out late that night working for an P8-aday Job. Since then, I haven't seen yet any great advances of changes in our political system that I can admire. Have there been any changes at all in our political system aside from the removel of the "dysfunctional" and their replacement with "incom-

We're in a quagmire, (1) Unless the upper crust of the Pilipino society and the Pilipino talpant cut the umbilical cord connecting them to political cronylam, and then sincerely join Junn de la Crux's fight against poverty, the same political situation will prevail in our country." (2) Unless the Pilipinos renounce and turn away from institutionalized corruption, our country's political system will

It is not politics which is corrupt. It is the citizens who corrupt it. Where are we beaded to? -CHILLI GALON,

kayana 36 wetsero.net



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BALL POINT

# Mayor in murder tries to leave RP

By Nildeo Dizon

A TOWN MAYOR WAS STOPPED FROM LEAVING THE country yesterday after his name was placed on the Bureau of Immigration watch list in connection with the murder of a publisher in Aurora province last year.

Dungaian Mayor Jaime Ylarde was ibbooked on Philippine Airlines (PA...) flight PR 300 for Hong Kong that was set to leave at 8 a.m. from the Ninoy hAquino International Airport (Nait) Centennial Terminal yesterday.

But ammigration officers told . Ylarde he cannot leave because he was on the BI watch list.

\*1,000 Luisita

workers want

through CARP

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—AT least 1,103 farm workers at the

Hacienda laisita in Tarlac have

signed a petition seeking individ-

ual ownership of lots at the Co-

The farmers' group Farmwork-ers Agrarian Reform Movement-

PHacienda Luisita (Parm-Luisita), submitted the 75-page petition to the Department of Agrarian Re-

form in Quezon City on Tuesday,

according to Renato Lalic, Rarm-

.: 4.874 hectares of the sugar estate

under the Comprehensive Agran-

the petition even as the Kilusang

Magbubukid ng Puipinas, Aiyansa ng Manggagawang Bukid sa Asyenda Lusta and United Lust

ta. Workers Union-which ied the

agranan strike at the hacienda

from November 2004 to Novem ber 2005-asserted a conective

mode of ownership over the prop-

erty to ensure long-term posses-

The pennon also went on despite

an earlier poucy announcement by

Agranan Reform Undersecretary

Narciso Nieto Jr. that the estate,

which is covered by five titles,

would be collectively owned by the

nof Land Ownership Awards.

beneficiaries through a Certificate

La ic said the signatories are le-

gitimate farm workers siving in

three viliages on the Concepcion,

the farmers meet the quantica-

Etion set by Section 22 of Republic

Act 6657 or the Comprehensive

not want changes in the form of

and ownership, insisting that

Sthey retain the stock distribution

Soption (SDO) scheme. The HLI

questioned before the Supreme Court the cancellation of the SDO

by the DAR and the Presidential Agraman Reform Council

In their letter to Agranau Re-

Chapter presidents Manuel Bulatao

Sin Barangay Parang, Roger Amu

rao in Barangay Pando and Victor Cordero in Barangay Mabilog

"Farm workers would have full

control of the land only through

nette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon

the disir bution of lands to them,

the officers said in a letter

The Hacienda Lusita Inc. does

Tarlac side of the estate. He

Agrarian Reform Law of 1988.

The government has placed

Farm-Lustra went ahead with

Luisita secretary general.

an Reform Program.

non by tillers

juangco-family owned estate.

to own lots

Ylarde was not detained because there was no warrant for his arrest, according to Ferdinand Sampol. head supervisor of the BI-Naia.

Sampoi said Ylarde did not protest his inclusion in the watch list and simply left the airport.

The mayor also did not mention the purpose of his trip abroad, Sampot added.

found probable cause to charge Ylarde with the marder of Phiap Agustin, the editor and publisher of the weekly Starline Times Recorder.

The resolution was received by Agustin's family as they marked his first death anniversary last May 10 Agustin, 54, was gunned down inside his daughter's home after he delivered

copies of his weekly in Dingalan, Aurora. Agustin had been critical of Ylarde, a former potterman, in his columns.

The weekly also carried stories alleging that Ylarde had profited from the calamity funds received by the town in the wake of a landstide

Only last week, state prosecutors—that killed hundreds in 2004.

Agustin was the fourth Filipino journalist killed since the start of 2005. Last Tuesday, reporter Albert Orsoli-

no was gunned down in Caloocan City. Relatives of Agustin have appealed for justice on the first anniversary of his murder that has remained unsolved like the cases of 38 other Filipmo journatists killed in the last five years.

Nenita Mendoza, sister of the slain Startine Times Recorder publisher Philip Agustin, said the family was expecting a "fair resolution" from the new panel of prosecutors assigned by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez in March.

We have waited long and all that we

expect is a fair resolution," Mendoza sald. She said they wanted Dingalan Mayor Jame Varde included in the charges as the "mastermind" in Agustin's stay.

A previous resolution, which came on the eighth month of the preliminary investigation, excluded Ylarde from among the suspects but recommended his further investigation by the police and the Naconal Bureau of Investigation.

Relatives of Agustin as well as his friend, Dingalar Councilot Valentino Lapuz, had contested the Jan. 26, 2006 resolution and sought the relief of Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco. With a report from Tonette Oregas, PDI Central Luson Desk

BACOLOR, PAMPANGA-POCUS ON SOLV-

San Fernando Archbishop Paciano Amireto, chair of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' Episcopel Commission on Family and Life, ed slowdown in the annual population growth rate.

tion. That's unnecessary because it's bound to go down. Our people are already intelligent. They will only bring out into the world the children they can

He also urged those in government, especially lawmakers, to "divert" public resources away from population management and instead adot

more. The funds should be concentrated in the alleviation of poverty and in the advancement and development of our people," Aniceto said.

tion but the autcome of the concentration of wealth on a few people, families and companies.

aga nor House Bid 3773 (Responsible Parenthood and Population Management Act of 2005) caung it "not a reproductive health

genu ne reproductive health bil, promotes the health and dignity of women. We should not depend on chemicals in order to reduce our

Couples, he said should be allowed to deeide "according to their conscience and prin-

What we need is not birth control. What we need is self-restraint and that's the real meaning of freedom. We should be able to decide [on the methods that would make us more humane, human and more worthy of our dignity as PLipinos and as children of God " he said.

The Catholic Church approves only of natural family planning methods.

Aniceto said the figures that matter most are those that actually show that the poor are getting more access to hearth care education, jobs and lands and are earning decent wages.

# Church sticks to same line on population

ing poverty, not on reducing population.

gave that advice as he sought an end to debates by legislaturs and government planners on the project-They should stop debating about the popula-

support," Aniceto told the Inquerer on Tuesday.

these for irvenhood programs and job creation "[Burth control, pills should not be bought any

Poverty, he said is not a result of a big popula-

Aniceto also continued to campaign

measure but a destructive health bil "It poisons the metabolism of the mother A

population," he said

Anicero assailed what he observed as a practice in government-managed health centers. There, he noted, couples are told outright to use contraceptives.

ciples of their Church."

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luson Desk

#### The tack of funds of many public schools in the country is forcing students, like these at the Done Carmen Denia National High School in Toril, Daveo City, to volunteer for cleaning chores in their schools in preparation for the opening of classes next month. BIR exec who flunked lifestyle check gets promotion

form Secretary Nasser Pangan-COTABATO CITY-A RANKING REV daman, the farm workers said enue officer here, who recently they "voluntarily's gned" the peti-tion. It was endorsed by Lalic, Parm-Luisita Chair Noel Mailan and flunked a afestyle check, had been promoted

WORK NOW, STUDY LATER

In his order dated May 10, Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag oid Mama Marzoc, director of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) district office 18 here, to report to Cagayan de Oro City.

Buftag said the reassignment was a promotion for Marzoc Seven other revenue officials were also named to higher positions through the same

amassing unexpia ned wealth during his 37 years in the government service. He allegedly owns several pieces of real estate property. He denied any wrongdoing and maintained he was being framed up

Marzoc said he was vindicated by the promotion brought about by his "good tax collection perfor-

Juger the latest BIR order of assignment, Marzoc will formally replace Aracel Francisco on May 24. Francisco was being renssigned to head of the BIR's policy and plan-

BING-GONZALESPOLMINOANAO BURGAU

Marzoc's vacated post here will be taken over by Mustapha Gandarosa, BIR central office executive assistant for policy and planning

Other officers promoted were BIR 9 director Carazon Pangeog of San Pablo City, who will act as officer n charge and assistan, commissioner at the central office in Manaa, excise large axpayers division executive assistant Elvira Vera as new

Marzoc was being accused of the BIR district office 9 in San Pablo ning service, and collection enforcement division chief Teresita Angeles, who was named acting chief of the excise large taxpayers division.

From acring executive assistant at the texpeyers assistance service, director Aida Simbono will take over as acting assistant commissioner for taxpavers assistance while chief revenue officer Er nda Pengosro, of Baguio City, wi - be the acting director for the Cord ders Autonomous Region, which is also based in Baguio City. Chartie Senaie, PDI Muidanao Bureau

# Owwa exec suspended on molestation complaint from OFW

By Carla P. Gomez PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY-AN OVERSEAS Workers Welfere Administration (Owwa) officiarin Saudi Arabia has been suspended pending rivesugagion of allegations that he molested a female Overseas Filipino Worker (OPW) who sought his help its

Pebruary. Owwa chief Marianho Roque Esaid Ed Esquerra, Owwa counselor based in Dhahran, Saud Arabia, had been recalled to the Arabia, had been recalled to the Ph hopines to serve his suspension and to face the complaint filed by an OPW from Negros Oc-

"We will let due process lake its course," Roque told the INQUIRER ID A phone interview.

Roque said he filed the adminis rative case against Esguerra based on the complaint flied by the OFW at the Philip. pine Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi

"The Negrense did not want to sign her complaint under oath so I had to be the one to file the compraint," he added.

Roque said he met with the OFW while in Saudi Arabia and acces on her complaint. "We took care of her and placed her in a halfway

Esquerra was mmed ately reand suspended, he called

The OPW accused Esguerra, who is in his 50s, of molesting her in Pebruary when the sought his help after fleeing from her Amb employ er who had been making sexual adyances.

"I would like to express my disappointment and disgust over wha, happened I was able to hwart the sexual advances of my but I fe. Into Araa employer the hands of a fellow Fi, pino who just took advantage of me," she said in an affidavit executed at

the Phiappine Embassy in Reyadh

In her affidavit, the OPW said she had been working as a domestic helper for Ahmed Ibrahim Dobis in Doha, Dhahran, since

Kathy said Dobis cried to molest her a number of times but she was abic to thwart his sexual advances. But lest Peb. 2, she decided to run

She sought the help of a domestic helper and driver of n neighboring house in Doha who contacted Esquerta for assis-

Kathy said she was brought by

her companions to a shapping center in Khobar where she was fetched by Esquerra. They got into a white vehicle driven by a certain Alex.

Upon reaching the Polo Buildng Esquerra allegedly brought her to a room on the second floor which she said had a big bed, red sofas a side lable and a big cabi-

According to her statement, her description resembled the room occupied by Esquerra at Room 2008 in

It was inside the room where the Owwa officer adegedty made his

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BL-G2-7

sexual advances.

# INQUIRER Southern Luzon Bureau Chief Floresia G. Solmirano

# Kayaking around Mindoro in 18 days

Day 2

Day 3

Day 4 Pandan River

Day 5 Pagbarahini

Day 6

Day 7

Day 6

Patrico

Day 1

Igsusti, Paluan

Itho, Calevite

San Isidio,

By Madonna T. Virola San Jose, Occidental Mindoro

T 7:40 PM. ON April 22, three men landed on the shores of Barangay San Roque I in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro, putting their paddles to rest after 18 days of navigating the island's contours.

Eric M. Ramirez, Immanuel Peñaflor and Ariel "Taboy" Bacason began their voyage on April 5 in the same place, focused on their mission to become the first to circle Mindoro in

The Mindoro Kayaking 2006 Expedition as they called themse, ves, is a bonding of three individuals of disparate

Ramirez, 34, is a US migrant on vacation in Mindoro, his birthplace. A licensed nurse in New Jersey, although he finshed aeronautical engineering at the PATTS School of Aeronaurics in Manila, he left the island for the United States in

His friend from way back in co lege in Manua Penaffor, 38. is a successful furniture maker. He earned his Associate in Electrical Engineering degree at the Feati

Bacason, 33, is a gardener at a beach resort, a last-minute replacement for an original team member who had backed

#### Preparations

With Ramirez leading the adventure, the group consumed one year and a half to prepare the equipment they would need.

Into "paraw" (native outrigger boat) sailing after a two-year training in Aklan's Boracay, he voraciously read books and other materials on kayaking He visited kayak shows in New Jersey and sent a sample of a kayak to Pehafter for him to copy for the Man-

dorn adventure. Propelled by double-bladed paddies, modern kayaks trace their origins to the native boats used in Alaska at early as 4,000 years ago, according to archaeo-

Circumpavigating the Island MINDORO ( DCCIDENTIAL MUNICIORO Pandorachan Bay

were the seacraft of choice by the three who were out for an adven-

To call the kayak tho a "crusing" troop would be an understatement as travel around the island in this type of boat requires astute maneuvening skilts in waters they had just begun to ex-

The group said they prepared for two tough areas, one of them off Calavite at the northwestern tip, where the waves were normally about one meter high. "There was a point where we couldn't see each other," they

other area , was Borongkaan at the boundary of the two Mindoro provinces south of the istand.

#### Exploration

Ramurez said he didn't know Mindoro wen and that exploring the stand gave him the feeling he was our to conquer a familiar yet unknown territory.

On Day 5, he saw a wild duck sanctuary at the Pinagbarahan River, between Sta. Cruz and Mamburao Two days later, they marvelled at the waterfalls cascading from the mountain to the sea at it-Calavite. They saw

The sleek, elongated boats. Mangyan chudren padding in the open sea.

Ar Mananaw, Paluan, the next day, Peñaflor met natives who soid pebbles for a living and got acquainted with residents of Basil, Abra de llog, on the fourw-

Day 9 was Holy Thursday. The group observed strong winds and hesitated to continue their trip. The people offered them a hut for shelter, steamed rice and liquor as night capper.

#### Wrong turn

It was a memorable Good Priday. The kayakers made a wrong turn from Calavite and Paluan in Occidental Mindoro toward Puerto Galera as they maneuvered against the wind

Ramurez saw Bacason padditing fiercely but staying on the same spot. He rushed toward Bacason. who was about five miles away, but saw him drifting away from

"I thought Taboy's kayak overturned, but I realized he was not even worned," he said, proud of his teammate whose presence of mind boosted the group's

At this time, their kayaks were almost destroyed by big waves that pushed them to the shores.

Clangicalan, Mananaw. Suy 18 Sar: Jose Basili, Abra de

White Beach.

Puerto Galera

San Teodoro

Brgy, Mistory,

Halita, Gloria

Day 18

Doy 17

Day 12

Day 13

Calapsa

Mag Day 10 Apyas.

apside down, the three decided to take a break at a resort in Apyas, Abra de Bog on Day 11.

#### 'Gift from heaven'

White Beach in Puerto Galera "was ake a gift from heaven." It relaxed their sore and aching muscles. Ramirez said he would have wanted to indusge in snorkeling but missed the chance because of fever.

In Punta Beach, San Teodoro on Day 12, Easter Sunday, the group was offered small cottages for P500 by a group of women and several men already intoxicared with native liquor. The price was eventually lowered to

On Day 16, the journeymen encountered wind gusts that gave them a difficult time kayaking in Roxas, Oriental Mindoro. "The waves came from different directions, unlike those in Caravite where waves were only [coming from] one direction."

They decided to take a mesta and went videoke singing with the people at Datahican Beach Resort.

The next day, they were greeted by barangay taned (vi. age guards) in a Mangyan-populated island community called Dang-When Ramirez's kayak went kalan in Bulalacao, the southern-



KAYAK adventurers (from left) Immanuel Periaflor, Eric Ramirez and Ariel Bacason arrive in San Jose, Occidental Mindord. PROGNAT VIRGIA

most town of Oriental Mindoro.

Penaflor said he could not forget the Mangyan in g-string who asked for his mobile phone number, saying he might be able to go to Manila and could call

#### insights

The local residents at various points of the trib gave the group a gumpse of how they have been eking out a living in the coasta. communities. Some were fishermen engaged in dynam te fishing while others were farmers clearing the mountains.

One man leaves his house at dawn to fish, only to return several hours later with just a single small catch to offer his wife weiting on the shore

On the last day, the trio doubled their sails to 50 miles because of a desire to be home immediately.

Why should we protong the trip?

the thought occurred.

#### Home sweet home

As they neared their last stop, they kept thinking of their experiences and how they all began Nothing would compare to the sight of the shoreline, their fina. stop, they said.

"When I saw the shoreline with my head impilitalised my paddie and swam toward our families, about 20 of them," Ramirez said.

"We were very excited to go home as we missed our families

Their families did not know the details of the expedition and were told of their arrival only on the final day by Ramirez's mother while they were still in Alibug, Magsaysay, some 25 miles

They also did not even know it was Earth Day.

#### What they brought along

4 paddles, 3 life vests, 1 six-person tent, 3 sleeping bags, 3 blige pumps to sigher off water feam, a global positioning system compass, map survival kit (2-liter container, signal mirror whistle and saw) hylon fishing use and trook condom (for emergency water) (ancets and mini flashlight corned beef dried meat, sardines, Power bars (energy bars packed with complex carbohydrates with high calorie content) mobile phone, head lamp, battery-powered lamp, underwater camera, macheta, rope silverware, soap clothes sun block lotton insect repallant, pots and pans, sponge, camping stove, shower bag as drinking water container, mattress pair of binoculars, dry bags, lots of plastic bags. and waterproof gear

Development Bank of the Philippines

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The Development Bank of the Philippines ("DBP") through its Bids and Awards Committee ("BAC") hereby issues this invitation to interested parties to apply for pre-qualification and to bid for the purchase and assumption of OBP's rights little interest and obligations on certain non-performing loans and assets with the aggregate amount of Two Hundred Fourteen Million One Hundred Forty Thousand and 00/100 (P214 140 000 30 The non-performing loans and essets will be sold on CASH BASIS ONLY, AS-IS, WHERE-IS-BASIS AND NO RECOURSE TO DBP

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All interested parties may obtain starting on May 11, 2006 to May 23, 2006, 8:00 s.m. to 4:00 p.m. the Terms of Reference for Pre-qualification from and at the following address upon payment of non-refundable fee of Pasos. Fifty Thousand and 00:100 (P50,000.00).

THE SECRETARIAT BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE ("BAC") the Head Remedial Management 2 Asset Management Ground Floor DBP Building Development Bank of the Philippines Sert. G. J. Puyet Avenue cor. Mekati Avenue Mekali City, Philippines 1200

Each interested party that submits itself for pre-qualification will be evaluated based on the chiefle set forth in the Terms of Reference for Pre-qualification.

Deadline for the submission of eligibility requirements for prequelification shall be on May 25, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. Manile time and is non-extendible.

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(Sgd.) ARMANDO O. SANIA Executive vice President and Chairman Bids & Awards Committee

(PD)-May 11 & 16, 2000)

#### By Gerald Gene R. Querubin Sta. Crus, Marinduque

THE FORMER COPPER mining town of Sta Cruz in Marinduque is trying to reinvent itself as a

tourism destination. Blessed by pristing beaches, scenic nature spots, and historical land-marks, the former mining site of Marinduque Copper Mining Corp. (Marcopper) is 150 km south of Manila, which makes it more accessi-

ble to tourists than Boracay, Cebu or Paranyari. The first-class municipality (average annual income P35 million or more over the past three years) is the premier destination of the heart-

shaped island-province. As the seafood capital of Marinduque, Sca. Cruz yields an abundant harvest of "duts" or "buliuno" (small fish), the kind being bought by "bagoong" (saited fish paste) makers from as far as Pangasinan, it celebrated its first seafood festivus on May 1-3.

#### Beaches

The main showcase of Sta. Cruz is the Palo Maria Beach in Barangay Maniwaya. The white-sand beach with clean, clear waters is regarded as one of the finest in the country.

Tourists will discover there first class amenities still untampered by gaudy commercialism. They can also leave behind their "insigma" of footprints on the other beaches, such as the pebbled Dapdap and

Dapdap Beach in Barangay Tagum is a 30-minute jeepney ride from the poblacion, while Maligaya Beach in Barengay Morales is a 45-minute jeepoey ride.

Other beaches are the Kalangkang for children and adults And Buga.

Island-villages also boast of scenic beaches. Poio nas Aroma Beach, a 15minute ride by motorboat from Buyabod Port, which is now frequented by vis tors because of its nearness to the town proper.

Mongpong Island is another gem of a find because of its white beaches.

A refreshing choice for visitors are the Kawa-Kawa Palls in Barangay Bangcuangan, the Bagakawa Falls in Barangay Tambangan, and the Aitar Pales in Barangay De Vista

They, however, need not look far because Sta Cruz has waterfalls right within the poblacion. From where they are staying they can walk for 5 .0 minutes to the Bussy Palls, complete with dipping pools

#### **GETTING THERE**

By land. From Manila, take a JAC Liner from Edsa/Kamias/Cubao station. A bus that travels directly to Sta. Cruz, Marinduque charges P500 one-

Dr take any bus (JAC liner, JAM liner or Deta Rosa liner) going to Tatao-Tatao Port in Lucena City. From there, fastcraft and terry boats go to Buyabod port in Sta. Cruz, or to Cawit Boar or Balanacan port, Mogpog. From Cawit or Balamacan, vans or jeeps travel to Ste.

There are also vans that travel from Munita to Talao-Talao.

By air: Asian Spirit offers regular flights four times a week to Gasan Airport Travel time is approximately 45 minutes from Manits Public shuttle vehicles are systable to passengers headed for various destinations.

Mining town reinvents itself

Busay is less than a kilometer from the Sta. Cruz Parish Church, the oldest church in the town center.

Sout in 1760, it houses centuriesold religious sculptures and the widepaneled "retablos" at the center and

less than five minutes of tricycle ride from the church is the centuriesold Baluarte or watch tower in Barangay Lapu-Lapu, which was once used by natives to spot and ward off possible arracks by oarates.

Tourists can visit the Bathaia Caves System in Barangay Ipil, a 20-minute ride from the town proper. Inside the caves are wonderful stalactites, stalagmites and other natura, rock formartons. Thousands of guano-producing bats inhabit the place. In one of the caves, guests can mar-

vei at the "enchanted" pythons guarding t The more adventurous, nowever can wade in waist-deep waters of the Bathala's River Cave.

For nature lovers, the municipa ity offers areas for hiking, trekking and trail baking.

"Visitors would marvel not only at its beaches, scenic spots and historicar randmarks but also at the low-cost food and accommodations," said

Mayor Perciva, Morales Since the beaches of Sta. Cruz have not been commercialized yet, visitors can stay overnight through the "home stay program" implemented by the

Provincial Tourism Office They can stay in houses near the beaches. The more adventurous may bring their camping gear and pitch tents on the beach. However, making bonfires or cooking at the beach is discouraged

Hotels and lodging houses can be found at the town proper.

# The origin of the Opus Dei: 'God's Marines'

OPUS DEI-LATTN FOR "THE work of God"-is a relatively small group of roughly 85,000 Catholics, mostly lay men and women but including clergy as well, founded in 1928 in Madrid, Spain, by St. Josemaria Escriva.

Opus Del arose from the ferment in European Catholicism of

the early 20th century, alarmed corps of lay men and women. Del's core spiritual ideas, the by the growing gap between the Church and the secular world. It was one of many new forms of life in Catholicism designed to "evengelize" securarity, meaning to bring the message of the gospel to the modern street

Escriva's vision was to form a

who would then bring Christianity into the boardrooms, parliaments, secture halls and newsrooms of the modern world. It would be the laity, not the clerical caste, who would "redeesn" secularity.

All of this is expressed in Opus

"sanctification of world," Escriva encouraged his followers not to compartmentalize their religious lives, to see their ordinary daily work just as "religious" an activity as going to church on Sunday. Opus Dei numbers are generally married and live 1,850 priests, along with 83,641

There are three main categorles of members—numeraries. who are cembate and live in Opus Dei centers; associates, who are like numeranes but live on their own; and supernumeranes, who

with their families. In theory,

these are distinctions in one's mode of life, not in level of com-

-Excerpts from "What is Opus Dei" by John Allen, author of "Opus Dei: An Objective Look Behind the Myths and Reality of the Most Controversial Force in the Cathotic Church."

# Opus Dei in RP: It began with 3 Harvard boys

mind. Harvard, of all places, was where he got snared, so to speak.

There, he met Bernardo Villegas and Placido Mapa who were also doing doctorate studies in economics. All three became drawn to Opus Dei and eventually sought membership-Villegas and Estanislao as numeranes, and Mapa as a supernumerary. The three brought Opus Der to the Philippines and some parts of Asia and were instrumental in its growth in the region

Numeraries are lay people who are committed to a life of ceribacy, live together in an Opus Dei residence and follow a relatively structured regimen even while practicing their chosen professions in the securar world. They study philosophy and theology as would be required for priest-

Supernumeranes are generally married and live with their famihes. (See sidebar above.)

#### God's Marines

Numerary comes from the Latin word numerus and has a Roman militaristic origin. Opus Det members sometimes think of themselves as "God's Marines."

And what attracted Estanislao to "the work"

"I realized I could remain an economist, that I need not give up being one, while offering everything to God," Estanisiao explains. We have a mission to put God into people's lives while maintaining a personal relationship with God." & is a call, a vocation, he adds

Opus Dei's Spanish founder, St Josemaria Escriva (canonized in 2000) was still alive at that time, and Villegas had gone to Barcelona to meet with him. Estanishao later met with Escriva in Mexico.

"He was very interested in the Philippines," Estanislao remembers. "He told me, 'If you leave it up to me I'd like to be buried in the Philippines." It Maynilad Study Center in Maiate.



IT HAPPENED AT HARVARD for Dr. Jesus Estanislao while pursuing a doctoral degree in economics: He discovered the Opus Dei and brought it to his home country.

was an encounter he would never forget.

#### Beginnings in RP

Before starting anything, the Harvard boys first had to get the approval of then Manila Archbishop Rufino Cardinal Santos.

The first Opus Del center for men in Manila was in the compound of the Villegas family in Singalong, It opened in 1964 to students, many of them from De La Salle University

Estanesiao and Villegas, a La Sallite, who had gone through spiritual formation and theological studies, conducted talks and recollections. Joining them later were two Spanish priests of Opus Dei, Fathers Jose Morales and Javier de Pedro, and numerary Jose Rivera, an engineer.

in April 1965 the apostolate moved to a bigger place, the



YOUNG NUMERARIES at the Tanglaw Residence in Quezon City are mostly professionals and intellactuals.

This would be a venue for education and training for male students and professionals. And of course, for recruitment.

#### Drawing students

Soon, Opus Dei gamed # foothold in the University of the Philippines in Quezon City. To serve that part of Metro Manua, Opus Dei built the Banahaw Cultural Center in 1968. Two more priests arrived to serve the needs of the growing number of maie students and professionals.

The women of Opus Dei who arrived in 1965 also built a student residence on Leon Guinto Street in Malate, attracting both students and professionals.

"I was among those who frequently visited the center," says Rosie Tagasan who was taking up staristics at UP in the early 1970s. "They were always speaking in

English and I didn't feel at ease, Tagasan recalls. If that didn't draw her to Opus Des, the wide erray of reading materials did.

became more frequent. She did not become a numerary right away and first had to see to it that her widowed mother and younger siblings were economically okay. Financial stability and a good intellect are among the requisites for numeranes.

Although Tagasan's job in a foreign company meant living for many years in Asian countries that were not predominantly Catholic, she didn't have to stop being a numerary and found ways to live out her religious commitment. Not too long ago, she came home for good and became director of the Makiline Conference Center in Calamba, Laguna. She lives in the adjacent residence for female numeraries, a well-appointed one, no doubt, that opens to a lush and wooded

#### Expansion

In August 1967, numeraries Estanishao and Villegas put up the Center for Research and Communication (CRC), a business and

economic think tank.

CHRIS DOYO

The CRC was to be an instrument that would carry the church in the workplace, so to speak, and impart Catholic teachings to professionals in business, law, journalism, education and other key sectors. Among the early recruits was another Harvard graduate Jose Romero, economist and business journalist, who later became a supernumerary

In 1995, the CRC became the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) where some 2,000 students are currently enrolled, its tuntion is among the most prohibitive. Its campus is in the heart of the Ortigas business center in Pasig. Villegas had served as university president.

Despite its big chapel with a grand gilded altar decorated with renaissance-style paintings (a trademark of Opus Dei chapels), and the regular presence of Opus Des priests for daily Masses and confessions, UA&P is not a Catholic school.

This is what Antonio Torralba,

and Sciences, wants to point out. LARP is not a member of the Catholic Educationa, Association, of the Philippines. But doctrinal soundness in the courses and pascoral work in the campus are entrusted to members of Opus Dea, Torralba adds.

Values education is very promi-nent in the curriculum and other activities for the youth, Torralba adds. When the INQUINER visited Opus Deseffiliated Batete Farm School in Batangas, Torraiba was there with young UA&P graduates giving seminars on love and sexuality.

"Okay, UA&P is an Opus Der flagship," numerary and Opus Der information officer Conrado Ma. Ricafort concedes when pressed to explain the seeming hesitancy among members to get their institutions labeled as Catholic and Opus Der.

He adds that to further the Church's mission to sanctify and evangelize, members, parents especially, put up foundations that run schools and centers, the chaplainty of which is entrusted to Opus Dei.

Among these are Woodrose School for girls and Southridge School for boys in posh Ayala-Alabang. Parents have also established schools in Quezon City, Cebu and Houn.

Opus Dei institutions that are run as corporate projects-20; study centers, eight cultural development centers for professionals, three retreat/seminar houses, one university and five professional training centers for women.

Schools run by Opus Dei members-eight grade schools and high schools, three vocationaltechnical schools for men and five farm schools.

Ricafort says that running training centers for the poor and out-of-school youth are the members' way of applying the social teachings of the Church and its "preferential option for the poor." (To be continued)

# Critics pan 'Da Vinci' in Cannes

manity's roots.

White readers worldwide devoured the novel, reaction from Cannes critics ranged from mild endorsement of its pot-bouer suspense to groans of ridicule over its heavy melodrama

"It's a movie about whether the greatest story ever told is true or not, and it's not the greatest movie ever screened, is it?" said Baz Bamigboye, a film columnist for London's Daily Mail. "As a thriller, well," he continued shrugg ng.

"Maybe the next day I'l: forget about at," said Igor Soukmanov of Unistar Radio in Belarus, "But today for two hours it was good entertainment ... As a Hollywood movie, it's a very nace picture."

Critics got their first look at "The Da Vinci Code" a day before its world premiere at Cannes on Wednesday, when it also debuts at theaters in France and some other countries. The film opens worldwide over the following two days. It opens in the Philippines today.

Directed by Ron Howard, the movie stars Tom Hanks and Audrey Tautou as strangers hurled together on a frantic quest for the Holy Grail after a series of murders is committed.

The filmmakers added some twists and variations here and there, but the general thrust of the novel remained intact, kicluding its theory that Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene were married and had a child, which has prompted denouncements from many Christians.

#### Restless audience

The Canner audience clearly grew restiess as the movie dragged on to two and a half hours and spun a long sequence of anticlimactic revelations.

"I kept thinking of the Energiz-

er Bunny, because it kept going and going and going, and not in a good way," said James Rocchi, a fum entic for CBS 5 television in San Francisco and the online outlet Cinematical Ron Howard makes handsome films. He doesn't make bad ones, but he doesn't make great ones." One especially melodramatic

line uttered by Hanks drew prolonged laughter and some catcails, and the audience continued to titter for much of the film's re-

Some people walked out during the movie's closing minutes, although there were fewer departures than many Cannes movies provoke among harsh critics. When the credits rolled, there were a few whistles and bisses, and there was none of the scattered applause even bad movies sometimes receive at Cannes.

Critics singled out costar lan McKellen, playing a wry Grail enthusiast who joins the search, as the movie's highlight, injerting hearty humor and delivering the most nuanced performance. Paul Bettany was cited for adding a seething mix of tragic pathos and destructive zealousness as a monk assassin who carries out the slayings.

#### Passionate protests

While critics in Cannes responded cooly to the movie, Christian leaders in Asia voiced fears the movie may sour the image of their religion in the region where Christianity is overshadowed by Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam.

The archbishop of Manila, Gaudeneso Cardinal Rosales, has denounced both the movie and the novel as an attack on the divinity of Jenus Christ. But he has stopped short of calling for a banin the predominantly Roman



A PYRAMID-SHAPED tent advertising "The Da Vinci Code" is located on the waterfront as preparations continue for the 59th International film festival in Cannes, southern France, on Tuesday,

Catholic nation.

Marissa Laguardia, head of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), cited the importance of preserving free speech in the Philippines. She said opponents of the film may discourage friends from watching it, but that the movie "has to be shown."

Otherwise we will be the only country that will not show this film. Thurty-six countries bave already reviewed this film and they have not benned it. So are we just

out of the Stone Age?" Laguardia

The MTRCB approved an adult rating for the movie but stopped short of rating it "X," saying "it does not constitute a cicar, express or direct attack on the Catholic Church or religion" and does not libel or defame any per-

Many Christians all over the world consider as blasphemy one of the movie's premises that Jesus Christ married Mary Magdalene and fathered children and that

But Christians in Asia are especially worried that the movie may spread misinformation about their religion, which is a minority faith in many countries of the re-

"If Jesus Christ had a child and a wife, then Christianity would be destroyed," said Thongchai Pradabehananurat, of the Thailand Protestant Churches Coordinating Committee

A coalinon of Christian groups in Thailand, which is more than 90 percent Buddhist, demanded that censors cut the last 15 minutes of the movie, which reveal that Jesus' lineage has continued

The country's censorsh p board agreed to snip the last 10 manutes, but the movie's maker, Columbia Pictures, has appealed.

#### Hunger strike

In India, Joseph Dias, bead of the Catholic Secular Forum, went on a hunger strike in downtown Bombay to protest the movie's release in his country, where most of the 1 billion population is Hir-

After receiving more than 200 complaints, India's Information and Broadcasting Minister Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi said he was going to see the movie for himself, which may delay by a day or two the film's scheduled release in the country on Priday.

In South Korea which has 13 milhon Procestants and 4.6 milnon Ruman Catholies, a court ruled Tuesday that a Christian group's request for an injunction

to block screenings acked merit. "As it is clear that the novel and movie are all fiction. there is no probability that the movie can make viewers mistakenly believe the contents of the movie are facts," chief judge Song Jin-hyun said in his ruling.

The Christian Council of Korea, an umbrella group of 63 South Korean Protestant denomnations, said it respected the ruiing but would lead a boycott of the movie, which it said defiles the sanctity of Jesus Christ and distorts facts.

#### Strength of faith

In Malaysia where nearly 60 percent are Muslims, Bishop Lim Cheng Ean said the strength of Christian faith atone would counter the movie.

"If Christians know their own faith, they will be strong enough. We can leave it to their discretion as to whether they would rather watch the movie or not. That is their free choice," he said.

Australia's Anglican Church. however, isn't taking any chances. Anglican Sydney Media which promotes the Sydney dio cese, has set up a website and launched movie theater ads chal lenging theories in the "The Da Vinci Code" book to coincide with the resease of the movie version.

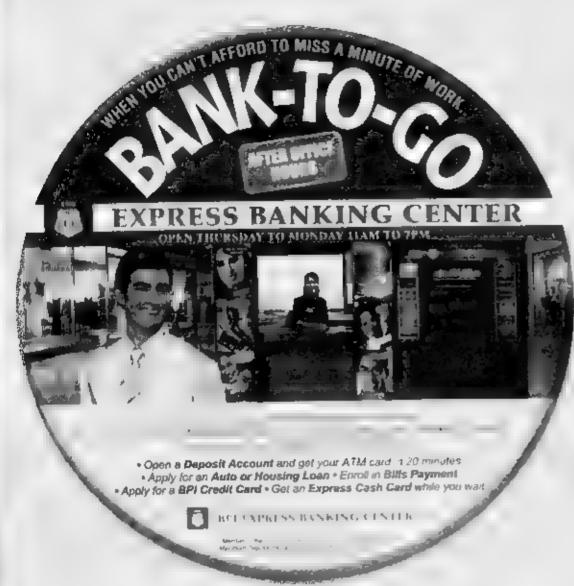
#### Albinos unhappy

In another development, mem bers of the National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmenta tion in the United States ex pressed unhappiness with the film's heavy, a monk-assassin, be ing an albino, as described in the

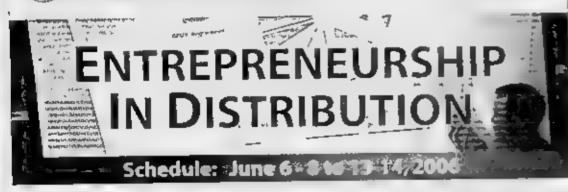
Michael McGowan, an aibino who heads the organization, said "The Da Vinci Code" would be the 68th movie since 1960 to feature an evil albino.

The "Da Vinci" character "is just the latest in a long string McGowan said. "The problem a there has been no balance. There are no realistic, sympathetic or heroic characters with albimar that you can find in movies or popular culture."

# House still a millionaire's club



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523 Poses de Roxas, Maket) City 1246 Philippines



By Michael Lim Ubac

ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPREsentatives, except the five parry-list lawmakers, are millionaires.

Based on the lawmakers' Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth as of Dec. 31, 2005, only party-list Representatives Satur Orampo, Rafael Mariano, Crispin Beltran, Teodoro Casiño and Joel Virador had assets worth less than P1 million.

Mariano, the national chair of the Kilusang Maghabukid ng Pilipinas, was the poorest of them all with no assets and liabilities to speak of His total net worth is P18,537 12 repre-

senting his monthly salary (P35,000 less tax) In contrast, Rep. Cynthia Viliar, the richest legislator, with P759.8-million in total assets.

She had been on top of the millionaires' list of the House since replacing in 2001 her spouse then Speaker and now Senator Manuel Villar-as representative of the kane district of Las Piñas.

The summary report was officially released esterday by Emilia Calonge, director of the House Records Management Division, and Jose Ma. Antonio Tuano, executive director of the House Administrative Management Bu-

A far second to Villar was President Macapagal-Arroyo's brother-in-law, Ignacio Arroyo of Negros Occidental (P287.5 million), Judy Syluco of floilo (P255 million), Ferjenel Biron of Ilodo (P217.5 million), Rafael Nautes of Quezon (P117.4 million), Edgardo Angara of Aurora (P107 million), Gilbert Teodoro of Pangasinan (P102.6 million), Glenda Ecleo of Surigao del Norte (P94.2 million), Juan Ponce Earle Jr. of Cagayan (P93.9 million) and Antomo Florrendo of Davao del Norte (P92.3 million)

Speaker Jose de Veneria was in 34th slot with P57 million while Minority Leader Francis Escudero placed 177th with P6.9 million. The President's son, Rep. Mikey Arroyo of

Pampanga, took the 19th slot with P76.9 million, while then Antipoto Rep. Ronaldo Puno, now interior secretary, was 11th with P89.4

Ironically, 16 of the 21 party-list lawmakers, supposedly representing marginalized sectors, also belonged to the millionaires'

Rep. Rene Velarde (Buhay), the son of El Shadda: leader Mike Velarde, was the richest among them with P30.9-million in net worth, followed by Acmad Tomawis (Alyansa ng Indilunong Filpino), Eulogio "Amang" Magsaysay (Alliance of Volunteer Educators), Sunny Rose Madamba (Association of Philippine Electric Cooperative), Joel Villanueva (Citizens' Battle Against Corruption), Edgar Valdez and Ernesto Pablo (Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives), Florencio "Bem" Noel (An Waray), Christian Señeres of Buhay, Rodante Marcoleta of Alagad, Anna Theresa Hontiveros-Baraquel of Akbayan, Guillermo Cun Coop-Natco, Leonila. Chavez o f Butil, Liza Maza of Gabriela, Loretta Ann Rosales of Akhayan and Renato Magtubo of Partido ng Manggagawa

# **Doomed Pinay** saved from Saudi beheading

By Volt Contreras and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A FILIPINA CONVICTED of murder in Saudi Arabia has been saved from execution through the intercession of President Macapagal-Arroyo, and the victim's family has accepted part of a total of P28 million in blood money, a special presidential envoy an-

nonnced yesterday. Sarah Dematera, 34, had been marked for death by decapitation since Nov. 14, 1993, when a Sauch court found the domestic helper guilty of killing her employer's wife, according to a statement issued by Ambassador Amable Aguiluz, special envoy to Cooperation the Gulf

Council. Dematera maintained she was framed in the killing of the woman, which took place at her employers' home four days after she started working in Saudi Arabia in November 1992, the statement said.

The victim's family for mally accepted \$00,000 Saudi rials (P7 million) as a down payment during a court hearing to Dammam last May 10, the statement said, adding that the equivalent of P2.45 million had been donated by Aguilluz and the rest was contributed by overseas Pfliptno workers

Although Aguiluz himself had to negotiate with the victim's family to accept the payment of blood money and set the amount, the statement attributed the sparing of Dematera's life to Ms Arroyo's intercession during

her recent visit to Saud. Arabia, where she also obtained pardon for 138 jailed Filipino workers

The statement said Dematera would be released from prison once the rest of the money is paid, but it did not say where the money would come from.

Meanwhile, mne of the 138 Filipino workers pardoned during Ms Arroyo's visit told the President in a thank-you letter that other foreign workers detained in Saudi Arabia were envious of their good fortune

We all ciapped while watching you meet with the King and even other foreigners in our detention center also applauded," the workers said in their letter, released by Malacañang yesterday. "When we were told about the King's pardon, an Egyptian detainee and other Indonesian prisoners told us that they wished they were Filipinos so that you can also be their

President." The letter was signed by Rofia U Saguia, Catherine D. Tonelada, Darwina L. Astare, Rahma U. Sabilla, Lisa P Martinez, Baida Omar, Saguira M. Unotan, Pedella R Rapal, and Mela-

"Your visit to Saud: Arabin and friendship with King Abdullah made it possible for our release to take piace," the letter

"We will do our best to explain to our countrymen the miltural and legal differences that workers leaving for Saudi Arabla must always consider and respect," the letter added.

### OIC team here on mission

OFFICIALLY, IT'S CALLED A fact-finding mission, Essentialby it's a two-day "road trip" meant to show the Mustim world how much war-turn lives have improved in Mindanso a decade after the Philippine government struck a peace deal with Moro rebels.

The innerary includes stops in provincial capitols, a mosque, a Sharrah court house, a sea post, a hospital, and the shores of Lake Lango for a ceremonial toss of fingerlings

Upon Malacañang's invitation, a 16-member delegation from the influential Organiza don of the Islamic Conference arrived yesterday and will visit officials in the South, including the old guards of the Moro National Liberation Front

The team is set to assess the "implementation" of the September 1996 peace agreement between the government and the MNLR an OICbacked accord which envisioned autonomy and socioeconomic rehabilitation for Mindanao's Muslim populace.

The observers will basically look at both the physical and political infrastructure, the state of the natural resources, and the status of the various development projects in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanso into which billions of dollars in foreign aid or loans have since poured.

"It is a fact-finding mission m evaluate and see on the ground... what was implemented, obstacles impending the implementation, the complaints of the parties involved, how we (OiC) can help to find ways and means to fully implement (it)," said Ambassador Sayed Kassem El-Massry, adviser to the OfC Secretary and head of the Voit Contrerus mission,





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Vendetta angle eyed in journalist's slay

# Gunmen's identities known to cops

### By Luige A. del Puerto and Nancy C. Carvapi

POLICE YESTERDAY SAID THE killing of reporter Albert Orsolino was "not media-related."

Director Vidal Querol, National Capital Region police chief, yesterday said personal vendetta could have have prompted the attack on the 45-year-old tabload reporter.

Right now, investigators are outside Metro Manila working on the angle that the killing was not media-related," he said.

Chief Supt Leopoido Bataoil, Northern Police District director, said they had already identified the gummen as well as the owner of the motorcycle used by the sus-

He refused to give details, at-though a check with the records of the Land Transportation Office showed that the motorcycle was registered to a certain Roberto

Ennque of Dasmannas, Cavite Querol added that results of

that Orsound's murder might be an "act of vengeance" it could have something to do with his anti-criminal.ty campaign as a barangay officts, in Caloocan City, he explained.

Without elaborating, Querol said the marder could be linked to the death of a suspected narcotics peddler in the city.

He added that so far, the police had not found anything to show that Orsolino's death was related to his job as a media man.

We have not seen that he had targeted someone in his writings, unlike the media killings in the provinces," Querol said.

This was supported by Semior Supt. Geronimo Reside. Caloocan chief of police, and head of the group tasked to look into Orsohno's death.

Reside said the killers could have been motivated by "personai vendetta

Bataon said he had ordered his men to watch over Orsonno's

the arria, investigation indicated family round-the-clock. "The wife expressed fear for her safety and that of their five sma, children ages two to 10," he added

Orsolino, a reporter of the tabloid Saksi, was the latest in a growing list of murdered journalusts since 1986.

Two men on a motorcycle ambushed him on Thesday near a gas station on C-4 Road in Kaunlaran Village, Caloocan City. Orsolino was on his way to his Malacanang beat.

A stray bullet wounded bystander Annie Clemente in the right leg during the attack, police said.

The gunmen fled after exchanging gunfite with operatives of the Department of Transportation and Communication who happened to be passing by the area. One of the suspects was reportedly wounded in the firefight, police said

Baraon said witnesses had given police a description of the gunmen, who were spotted near the



ALBERT Orsolino, who was also a barangay official, was inside this car when he was ambushed by unidentified gunmen near a gasoline station on C4 highway in Caloocan City. ALAMAH TOMALBA

reporter's house before he was lo ed "The suspects were seen changing their clothes minutes a ter the reporter left onboard his car," he added.

Orsoling was a barangay officia, and president of the Lupa Homeowners Association He had come from his house in Phase I Lupa, Tonsuya, Malabon, when

The victim was the 78th journalist killed since 1986, according to the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines.

Grenade

lobbed at

QC school

AN UNIDENTIFIED PERSON lobbed a grenade at the Santo Domingo Academy, a private school in Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City, at about 3 30 a.m.

No one was injured although

a dog was hit and killed by shrapnel, while a neighbor's car

was damaged as a result of the

blast, Batasan Pouce station

commander Supt Jul us Abanes

Police are looking into a feud

he was attacked.

By DJ Yap

yesterday.

#### WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Police nab suspect in killing of Las Piñas barangay



■ Couple killed in Quezon City fire /A18

Single parents in Pasay get added benefits

/A18

M MCRPO chief **Vidal Querol** vows to make Metro safe for students /A18



PAGEANT HOPEFULS Candidates for this year's Miss Maked strike a pose with Miss Maketi 2005 Sherin Ladera (in black).

# Flood control program under way in Metro

#### By Tarva V. Quismundo

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA Development Authority has saunched "Opian Lines Sapa, Iwas Baha," a two-fold program aimed at prevening or reducing flooding in the metropo is with the start of the ramy season

"Our flood control operations continue throughout the year, but

garbage into waterways because that makes our job doubly diff cult," said MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna.

under the campaign, MMDA personnel wi conduct "cleaning and declogging of so and debris in creeks, injets and drainage systems" and other waterways from

residents to stop throwing same time, they will also conduct. Taguig-Pateros River, and the an information drive to encourage residents to do their part in preventing floods

The waterways that will be cleaned up by the MMDA flood control crew are the Antipolo-Creek and Estero de Pandacan in Manua, Estero de Tripa de Gamna in Pasay City, the San Juan Riv-

this time, we will also appeal to this month until June. At the er in Mandaluyong City, the Navotas R. ver in Maiabon City.

> They will also clear of garbage the esteros in More ones, San Lazaro, Tutuban, San Miguel, Sampaloc, Camboob, Joeson Paco and Concordia, all in Man a and the Batasan, Dario and San Vicente creeks in Quezon City.

among members of the family who owns the school as a possible angle Domingo Canero, owner of

Santo Domingo Academy who aves inside the compound told the police he suspects that one of his own children could be behind the incident adding that he had received an unsigned, death threat on May 15

#### Legal battle

The Caneros are entangled in a legal and personal ba ..e over ownership of the school, Abanes

Because of the squabble," Capero had asked the Department of Education to close down the school, which offers elementary and secondary schooling but this only angered

his chi dren he added Threats had been verbally exchanged between the school owner and his chi dren over the dispute, Abanes sa d.

Abanes, however, did not identify Canero's children

# Pasig gives chocolate factory 1-month extension

#### By Edson C. Tandoc jr.

THE PASIG CITY GOVERNMENT yesterday extended for another month the temporary reopening of a chocolate factory owned by Universa, Robina Corp. after the factory complied with antipoliabon regular ons.

"We usued them another temporary Jung order for one month. But the factory will still be under close monitoring," City Environ-ment and Natural Resources Office chief Raquei Naciongayo told the

She said the chocolate factory in Barangay Bagong hog had been using "low study fuel" as well as an

"automatic anti-pollution device." The factory in Barangay Regong Jiog was closed on April 20 follow ng complaints from nearby resi-

emitted by the plant, causing respiratory and skin moesses.

Company officials had released a statement questioning the closure order, saying it had "no legal basis."

The plant manufactures popular products like N ps Chocolates, Cream-O and Presto Cream

Seven days later, the company was allowed to reopen temporardy dents about the unbearable stench for 15 days subject for assessment

As the 15-day temporary reopening ispsed the other day city officials again held a public hearing with the affected residents and JRC officials.

#### Assessment

The city government finally agreed to allow the company to continue its operations for another morth, subject to another round of assessment.

Thus is not the first time a URC plant in Pasig City was ordered closed for poduction

In October 2005, the city shut down the company's coffee plant, claiming that the stench had caused dizzuress and asthma attacks among residents in Barangay Rosano.

But the coffee plant resumed operations nine days later after complying with the recommendations.



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# Barangay chair shot dead in Las Piñas

### By Jocelyn R. Uy and Luige A. del Puerto

HE WAS JUST A FEW STEPS away from his house, but he never made it home.

Lino de Castro, chair of Barangay Almanza Dos in Las Piñas City, was gunned down by four men in front of his house on Gladiola Street, T.S. Cruz Subdivision, at around 5:45 p.m. Tuesday.

The 44-year-old De Castro suffered at least five gunshot wounds in the face and two on his left chest, said city police chief Supt. Josephus Angan.

One of the suspects, however, was caught by barangay watch-

they heard the gunshots.

Lloyd de la Cruz was charged with murder in the Las Piñas prosecutor's office yesterday.

Witnesses told the police that De Castro was talking to someone in front of his house when four men approached him and shot him several times, Angan said.

Hearing the gunfire, the victim's wife, Julita, ran out of the house and saw her husband lying bloodied on the ground. But one of the suspects, holding

a gun, prevented her from coming close to her husband," Angan told the INQUIRER.

The suspects fied after the inci-

men who rushed to the scene when dent but watchmen and bystanders chased them and caught De la Cruz. The three others escaped. Recovered from the suspect was the victim's necklace and a ,45-cal pistol, Police found seven empty shells and two slugs at the crime scene.

> The motive behind the killing has yet to be determined. But An gan said the victim could have offended some people. 'As barangay chair, he addressed many problems in his area such as illegal vending and equatting," Angan said. "He had been very active in these campaigns and these are the thinks that our investigators are looking



NCRPO police chief Vidal Queral (right) and Southern police director Wilfredo Garcia with Lloyd dela Cruz, a suspect in the killing of a barangay captain in Las Piñas City.

# No crackdown on smelly drivers, but being neat counts Couple

#### By Tarra V. Quismundo

NOT ONLY WOULD THEY ATtract more customers, they would mee look good

An official of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority yesterday urged owners and operators of public attacty vehicles to encourage their drivers to be more conscious of their persona.

MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director Angel to Verge, de Dios said that contrary to newspaper reports, they were not goong to crack down on smelly drivers and conductors

First of all, how are you going to implement that? Will our enforcers go around and smen drivers and conductors one by one?" he asked.

#### Responsibility

"That's the responsibility of the order operators and owners. They can really enforce good grooming among their drivers and that would even be helpful to their business because who would want to ride in a bus with a driver who stanks?" Verge. De Dios toid the INOURER

He assued the clanfication following reports that the MMDA



DRIVERS who look and small good have an edge over those who don't practice proper hygiene, says the Metropolitan Manile

Development Authority.

had ordered its enforcers to apprehend "unhygienic" drivers MMDA chair Bayani Fernando

had also denied giving such an "Ail we can do is remind drivers." and conductors that they should not have an offensive smeal than they should not have body odor, bad breath or wear dirty clothes

They should at least be pre-

sentable because they are en-

gaged in public service," said Vergei de Dios. He added that having neat em-

ployees could even give bus companies and jeepney operators an edge over their competitors

Vergel de Dios said the agency has long been promoting good grooming among front ners ti the transport industry, particularly by imposing a dress code on

He said drivers and conductors should wear a shirt with a collar and sleeves astead of a sando, (steeveless undershirt), pants instead of shorts and shoes or sandais in place of slippers.

### NCRPO head vows to make Metro safe for students

#### By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION Ponce Office Director Vidal Oueror said the ponce force was ready to make the metropolis not only safe for students but also conducive to .earning" when classes open in June.

"We will make their environment conductive to learning. We will remove all distractions as well as everything that will harass them while they are studying." Queroi said during the mauguration of the new Mar kina City Po-Lice Station on Tuesday afternoon

Apart from going after robbers preying on students, the pouce will also crack down on the illegar drug trade as well as forms of gambling like video korera, he

Queroi estimated at least "two milion" students would be trooping back to schools during the opening of classes.

lo eastern Metro Manila, the district ponce have been meeting

with school officials to prepare for the enrollment period.

We have been meeting with echnol officials since two weeks ago so we may know the problem areas and deploy the necessary number of policemen. Chief Supt Charlemagne Alejandrino, Eastern Pouce District director, told the INQUIRER

He said they would be keeping an eye on at least 72 public and 82 private elementary schools, high schools and colleges in the ones of Mariana, Mandallyong, Pasig and the town of San Juan.

#### Police presence

Policemen would also be deployed in areas around schools as well as in terminals and malls in anticipation of mall goess rushing to buy school supplies in the next few days

"Our Special Weapons and Tic bes team is always ready to respond We also have our District Mobile Force to conduct patrois," Alejandrino added

# dead in **OC** fire

A GARBAGE SCAVENGER AND his wife were K, jed in a two-hour fire that destroyed their shanty in Quezon City the other night

The binze started at around 8 40 pm inside the house of Joseph and Teresa Navarra in Sitio Singit, Barangay Bagong Silangan, according to the pouce, who investigated the case in coordination with fire officials

Volunteers from the Payatas Pire Brigade were the first to respond to the alarm. But it took them over an hour to put out the flames, said investigator PO3 Diosdado Rocero The fire was fina ly put out at 9 45 p m

When fuefighters went inside the sharty, they discovered the burnt bodies of the Navarra couріе роцев заід.

Neighbors said they had difficulty rousing the Navarras from their sleep to warn them about the fire

Police said the cause of the fire was sombeing investigated

#### **METROBRIEFS**



#### Additional benefits

TREAT single parents well or you could end up in law in a bid to protect the rights of single parents in the city the council has passed on third and final reading an ordinance ordering business establishments in Pasay City to strictly implement the provisions of Republic Act 8972 or the Solo Parents Wellare Act of 2000 The ordinance, sponsored by Marie Irish Pineda, emphasized two provisions of the law which should be strictly implemented. First, a flexible work schedule must be granted to any single parent employee as long as it does not affect the prodecrivity of the worker and company Second any solo parent employse who has rendered at least one year of service must be allowed parental leave of not more than seven days. Violators of the ordinance

will be fined PS.000 or face imprisonment of 30 days, or both, depending on the court's discretion.

#### Grand homecoming

THE 1963 HIGH School Class of sity) will hold its alumni homocoming at 6 p.m., Friday, May 19, at the school complex on Tatt Avenue, Pasay City. Dr Florencio A. Baibido, homecoming president said mambers of Grass '63 can attend the celebration free or charge. Registration starts at 6 pm to be followed by cocktails program and fellowship For more into mation please contact Cynthia Angeles-Gallo 0917 8661568 and Filipinas "Ching" Za panta: San Petiro (0917-8953424).

#### UE reunion

ALL former officers of the University of the East Student Councils who belong to the Kapit-Bisig Party Alliance, its allied organizations and the Alyansa ng Mag-aaral sa Pamantasan ng Silangan (AMPS), are invited to a grand reunion on May 20, 5 p m at the Pergola Resto 89 Matakas Street near comer Vi Luna Road Quezon City For details. please contact Boy Vitoria (0921-9869365, 9201229), PL Capati (0927-2748788, or e-mail: Jekspitbisig@yahoo com.



A BOY takes an early morning dip in Hanila Bay, happy to be outdoors again after days of rains brought about by storm "Caloy."

### Dad proposes weekend use of parking lots

#### By DJ Yap

CALLING ALL BUSINESSES THAT CLOSE ON weekends: Please allow the public to use your parking spaces.

Quezon City Councilor Edcel Lagman Jr is urging establishments that do not operate on Saturdays and Sundays to open their parking areas to the public.

He noted that patrons of restaurants, bars and salons doubte in number on Saturdays. and Sundays, resulting in a shortage of park ing spaces

But establishments like banks that are closed on weekends usually have plenry of room to spare for people looking for a place to park, Layman said.

#### For patrons

He urged these businesses to be more accommodating to parons of adjacent establishments by allowing the use of their parking

But Lagman pointed out in an oterview that compliance would be compulsory, not mandatory.

He said private businesses, by law, still have the righ to refuse others from parking on their property.

### Leftist murders not easy to solve

THE KILLINGS OF MILITANTS might have something to do with don't have the approval of the government or the multary, that's for sure

Why? Because the government and the military would be the natural suspects in the killings. Who's crazy enough to do something that would be laid at one's doorsteps? More likely, some murders of po-

litical activists were committed by military men out to avenge the ambush-killings of their comrades. These military men probably suspected the victims of conniving with the New People's Army (NPA)

But the killings were not sanetioned by the government or the milkary establishment.

The other killings of militarits

the continuing purge in the commuran ranks. The victims were probably suspected of spying for the government

Still another reason for the killings did not have to do with politics, but the setting of personal

Police Deputy Director General Avenno Razon, head of Task Force Usig, formed to investigate the killings, was have a hard time at his new rob.

Razon could not even solve the murder of Manila police Supt Manolo Martinez when he was director of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO).



Martinez was gunned down while he was about to enter his precinct in Sta. Mesa, Manda.

If Razon could not crack the Martinéz murder puzzle, how can he soive the kallings of political activists. which are much more complicated than the Martinez assassination?

How could the opposition be so stupto as to include the murders of

milkants in its impeachment complaint that it will soon file before the House of Representatives?

The opposition might as well also include the killings of journalists in the impeachment complaint. After au, doesn't Gioria hate journalists because they have caused all her

The opposition would be well advised not to waste people's money on trivial things.

A retired Armed Porces general has adegedly built a mansion inside Westgrove, a mulionaires haven, in Sta. Rosa, Laguno.

The house is estimated to have cost the retired general from P30 million to P40 million. That ex-

valued at P7,000 to P9,000 per souare meter. No wonder this general was

scrounging for money when he was about to retire, according to my pources in the AFP

This is the same guy who, while still in the service, projected an image of being clean and honest by disbanding a corrupt unit that supphed arms to the minutey in the

In fact, he was corrupt to the core. My sources mid he didn't spare small projects just so he could earn from them, He even allegetly dipped into the fund for the gaso-

line allowance of as subordinates Here's a hint on his identity: He

dudes the price of the lot which is was the most unpopular and revised general when he repred You'll hear more about this re-

tired general in subsequent columns. As they say in Fupino, аболеон.

I'm no longer surposed why this retired genera, is no longer inverested in gening an ambassadorial

He's afraid of being grilled on his Westgrove mansion and other propernes that he reportedly acquired

while he was still in the service. My sources say he's just waiting to get a civilian street,re that would not require his designation being approved by the Commission on Appointments.

### The WORLD

# Bush allows Congress probe of domestic spying

WASHINGTON—THE WHITE House, in an abrupt reversal, has agreed to let the full Senate and House of Representatives intelligence committees review President George W. Bush's domestic spying program, lawmakers said on Tuesday.

The Republican chairmen of the Senate and House panels disclosed the shift two days before a Senate confirmation hearing for Air Porce Gen, Michael Hayden as the new CIA director which is expected to be domThe chairmen said separately that

Bush had agreed to full committee oversight of his Terrorist Surveillance Program rather than the more limited briefings allowed up to now.

The White House, under political pressure, did agree to conduct a set of briefings for the two full committees earlier this year, but those sessions did not disclose operational details about the eavesdropping

Insusted after the Sept 11 attacks, the program sets the Nation

out a court warrant on international phone caus and e-mails made by US citizens if one party is suspected to have links with terrorism

It has stirred an outcry among rights groups and awmakers who believe Bush overstepped his constitutional authority.

The White House has sought to avoid full committee oversight by firmiting briefings to subcommittees from each panel. Instally, the adminnumerion shared program details only

al Security Agency savesdrop with- with the chairmen and vice chairmen of the committees and party leaders in the House and Senate.

> "It became apparent that in ordet to have a fully informed confirmation hearing, all members of my committee needed to know the full width and breadth of the president's program," Sen Pat Roberts of Kansas, who heads the 15-member Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, said in a statement

Democrats, who have long pushed for full bearings, and the

House into compliance with the National Security Act of 1947, which requires the executive branch to keep Congress informed on intelligence matters.

The White House, for the first time, is showing signs that they are serious about oversigh " said Democrat Sen. John Rockefeller of West Virgima, the Senate panel's vice cha.tman

A full Senate committee briefing was scheduled for Wednesday af-

change would bring the White termoon Pull oversight was expected to replace subcommittee reviews that have been in place since earlier this year, said committee staff members from both chambers.

Hayden, who was the program's architect as NSA director from 1999 to 2005, was expected to face a blizzard of questions on NSA spying at a Thursday confirmation hearing before Roberts' committee. Republicans and Democrats have said Hay den's confirmation would depend on his answers would be. Reuters

# Suicide bomber kills 7 in Russia

MOSCOW—A SLICIDE BOMBER killed seven people including a top Russian poaceman on Wednesday when he drove his car into a police convoy in the south ern Russian region of Ingushetia

Among the dead was Dzhabra'l Kostoyev, deputy head of the Ingusheria interior ministry, two of his guards, and four civilians, a police spokesperson said.

The news came simultaneously with a report from Inter fax news agency that unknown gunmen had killed the governor of a detention center in the re-Karachayevoof Cherkessia, further from Chech

to yto ence Rebels have pledged total war against pouce in the North Cauca mus, saying they are collaborating with Russian occupiers

nya but also increasingly prone

Islamist websites on Wednesday published comments from a rebel commander in Ingushetia, who pledged such attacks would merease

"This morning the deputy minister was going to work from the village of Ekazhevo to the town of Nazran A car conta ning the suicide bomber drove onto the road from a side-street

at the moment the convoy was passing," the spokesperson

"An Investigating group is working at the site to find out the Reuters details," he said.



POLICE keep watch near a bus burned down by unidentified attackers May 16 at Jardim Tremembe neighborhood, northern outskirts of See Paulo, Brazil. Prison riots and a violent offensive by a powerful gang which has killed 133 has plunged Latin America's largest city into fear.

# Sau Paulo police strike back, kill 33 hoods

killed 33 suspected gang members and searched motorists at roadblocks as officers sought to quell a wave of attacks on ponce stations, courts and buses that had plunged South America's largest city into fear

While gang attacks fell off sharply Tuesday, the death ton since the violence began Friday soared to 133 as police struck back at the gangs who had ram-

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL-POLICE paged to protest the prison transfer of their leaders.

Officers "acred within the aw, but that doesn't mean we have to let them bumiliate us," Marco Antomo Desgualdo, a top São Paulo state law enforcement official, told reporters. He did not give specifics about the knings

Authorities and 33 suspected criminals were killed Tuesday, bringing to 71 the number of suspected gang members killed since Friday

night, Sao Paulo's state government said in a statement. The statement said 40 police officers and jail guards and four civilians were also killed

Nine inmates died in the jails ad ministered by the state government's public security agency, said spokesperson Carolina Farias. And nane prisoners died in prisons over seen by the state government's separate penttendary division, the agency said in a statement. Neither Farias nor perutentiary spokesperson Marcelo Duniel lonew how they

With guns drawn Tuesday, plainclothes ponce in a suburb of South America's largest city stopped and traked motorists in a hunt for more gang members

The crime spree showed the strength of organized crime in the financia, and industrial heart of Brazil, and it sent fear rippling through the metropolis of 18 mil

### India doctors protest caste quota

AHMEDABAD, INDIA-DOCTORS and medical students blocked roads and skipped work across urge parts of India on Tuesday as protests spread against a controversial government move to reserve more college seats for lower

Medical care at state-run hospitals in the western state of Gujarat and West Bengal in the east was disrupted, leaving thousands of pabents stranded without treatment

In the national capita, New Del h. students, striking interns and doctors set up makeshift treatment centers in the open. The move was aimed at making sure some pa nents were treated while underlining the protest, they said.

Despite the protests, the government has said it would go ahead with its move to more than double the proportion of seats reserved for lower castes and imbes

If the decision becomes law, it will see nearly haif the places in top educational institutes reserved for the country's traditionally underprivileged groups

This has sparked fury among apper caste students, especially medical students, who have to compete fiercely on mer t for limited seats in medical, engineering and management schools.

"If the government does not care for us, why should we work for them?" said Keyur Panchal, a pedia trician on strike from work at a government-run hospital in Ahmedebad, Gujarat's main city. Reuters

# Overweight elephant won't try treadmill

By Mary Pemberton

Zoo who seem to be breaking into

They've so far made little progress trying to coax Maggie, a somewhat cantankerous African elephant, onto the world's first treadmil for a pachyderm

For two months, Maggie's trainers have used her favorice treats-watermeion, apples, carrots, peanuts in the shell banana slaces and sweet potaroes-to entice the 8,000pound (3,600 kilogram) elephant unto exercising on the \$100,000 (euro78,000) piece of equipment

She has two feet on the treadmill and has touched a third one on it "200 director Pat Lampi said Tuesday. "Every six inches for ward s a new goa. There are a lot of steps to go."

Magg e's trainers and soo staff aren't discouraged.

"It is just a matter of getting that fourth foot up off the concrere floor," said elephant trainer Rob Smith.

Maggie arrived at the 200 in 1983 as a calf when her herd in Kruger National Park in South Africa was curied. She has been mone since Dec 14, 1997, when the zoo's other elephant died at

age 33 of a foot infection

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA—SO FAR, uon (about euro800,000) program in a control of a \$1 million only the trainers at the Alaska improve Maggie's life after deciding to keep Alaska's only elephant instead of piacing her at another facility, perhaps in a warmer chmate, with more elephants.

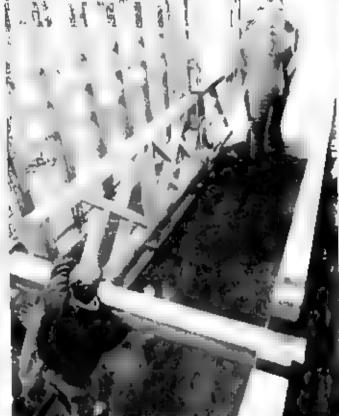
The zoo's program for Maggie included doubting the size of the elephant house and installing new heating, aght and ventilation systems, including apgraded radiant heat in the concrete floor. Her out door paddock was doubted in size

Peeding stations were placed high so that she now stretches for her food. Treats are hidden around her enclosure to help keep her busy. Sne's provided birch logs to strip the bark off.

The extra activity and a diet have he ped Maggie shed about 1,000 pounds (500 kaograms) "We think she's at a good weight now. It is just a matter of maintaining that," Lampi said

The Alaska Zoo is letting Maggie can the shots. Trainers can ten statt by looking at her that some days she wants to train. Other days not

"They learn every day of their lives They're like people," Smith said Bust like in school, there were days you didn't want to be in the lecture had."



ROB Smith tries to coax overweight Maggie onto her custom treadmill at the Alaska Zoo in Anchorage, May 16.

#### Peru woman of 450 A.D.: Warrior-princess or ruler? A MUMMY OF MYSTERY HAS Angeler, was not a member of the

FACE of murney from the ancient Moche culture.

come to light in Peru.

She was a woman who died some 1,600 years ago in the beyday of the Moche culture, well before the rise of the Incat. Her imposing tomb suggests someone of high status. Her desicrated remains are covered with red pigment and bear tattoos.

But the most striking aspect of the discovery, archaeologists said Thesday, is not the offerings of gold and semipremous stones, or the elaborate wrapping of her body in fine textiler, but the other grave goods.

She was surrounded by weaving materials and needles, befitting a woman, and 2 ceremonial war clubs and 28 spear throw ers—stocks that propel spears with far greater force -items never found before in the burnal of a woman of the Moche (pronounced MOH-chay)

Was she a warrior princess, or perhaps a ruler?

She is elite, but somewhat of an engma," said Dr. John Verano, a physical anthropologist at Tulane University, who worked with the Peruvian archaeologists who

made the discovery last year. Dr. Christopher B. Donnan of the University of California, Los

research team but inspected the mammy and the tomb soon after the find. "It's among the richest female Moche bunals ever found " said Donnan, an archaeologist of Peruvian culture. "The tomb combenes things usually found either exclusively in male or female burials—a real mystery"

The National Geographic Society announced the discovery and it publishing details in its magazine's June issue. The excavations, more than 400 miles northwest of Lima, were supported by the Augusto N. Wiese Foundation of Peru-

The Moche culture flourished in the coastar valleys of northern Peru in the first 700 years A.D. The woman's tomb was near the summer of a pyramid called Huaca Cao Viejo, a cathedral of the Moche religion.

Verano's X-ray examination revealed that the mummy was a young adult, Lying near her was the skeleton of another young woman who was apparently sacrificed by strangulation with a hemp rope, which was still around her neck. Such sacrifices were common in Andean cultures. Radiocarbon analysis of the rope indicated that the burial occurred around A.D. 450. NYT

# Discovery could help fight 'superbugs'

YORK-RESEARCHERS have found a potentially valuable new antibiotic in a scoop of soil from South Africa

Using a novel screening techmove, scientists from Merck & Co have found a chemica, compound that is effective against germs that have developed resistance to existing antibiotics. The discovery could provide a vital weapon in the ongoing battle against infectious bacteria, which are constantly evolving defenses to the drugs used against them.

"We need to continuously find antibiotics," said Sheo Singh, Merck's director of natural prod ucts chemistry.

With the recent emergence of "superbugs" that are resistant to even the most potent an ibiotics, there is a very real possibility that in the near furare some infections wil, simply be incurable

Part of the problem is that most antibiotics are just modifications of drugs that have been around for half a century. Another part of the problem is that despite all the

recent advances in genetics and molecular biology, the hunt for new antibiotics is still conducted by crial and error.

The Merck researchers addressed both problems with a ciever genetic trick that made an existing drug-hunting process more effective and also targeted novel types of antibiotics.

Their innova ion was to test extracts of fung , plants and oth er na irai substances agarest bacteria with a genetically engineered Ach lies' heel. Because

the bacteria were weakened, any compound that harmed them would have a more dramand effect and thus be easier

to identify The Merck scientists also chose the genetic hand-cap carefully, piacing it in a metabolic pathway that is not attacked by any major existing antibiotics. That in-creased the likelihood that any promising compound they discovered would be something for which the bacteria had not yet developed a resistance.

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

# Iran: No to 'chocolates for gold' offer

# Ahmadinejad rejects European incentives, including light-water reactor

TEHRAN—IRAN'S PRESIDENT MAHMOUD AH. European Union believe that Iran is comes suitable for use in weapons. Ahmadinejad said in a speech madinejad on Wednesday rejected a European plan to offer his country incentives, including a light-water nuclear reactor, in return for giving up uranium enrichment.

Do you think you are dealing with a 4-year-old child to whom you can give some walnuts and chocolates and get gold from him?" Almadinejad told thou sands of people in central Iran. have

200018K

weighed adding a light-water reactor to a package of incentives meant to persuade Tehran to permanently give up uransum enrichment-or face the threat of UN Security Council sanctions.

The United States, Israel and the

using its civilian nuclear program as a cover to produce nuclear weapons.

The United States, Britain and France support taking strong measures against Telman for violating a UN Security Council demand that Iran hak all enrichment-related accivities. Russia and China, the other two weto-wielding powers un the council, oppose sauctions.

Uranium enriched to low levels is used to fuel electricity-generatm more than 90 percent, it be-

Senior diplomats and EU govern-

ment officials said Tuesday that the tentative plans were being discussed among France, Britain and Germany as part of a possible package to be presented to senior representatives of the five permanent UN Security Council members at a meeting to London. All spoke on condition of anonymity because of the confidential nature of the information.

"The Iranian nation won't acing madeur power plants. Parished cept any suspension or end" to its

He said fran trusted the European Union in 2003 and suspended its nuclear activities as a gesture to boost negotiations over its nuclear program, only to have the Europeans eventually demand Iran permanently halt its uranium enrichment program

The 2003 deal called for guaramees that Iran's nuclear program. wouldn't diverge from civilian ends toward producing weapons. fran agreed to the request, but negotiations collapsed in August 2005 when the Europeans said the best guarantee was for Iran to permanently give up its uranium enrichment program.

tran responded by resuming uranium reprocessing activities at its uranium conversion facility in Isfahan, central Iran.

It resumed research and Jranium enrichment earlier this year after the International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN nuclear watchdog, referred Tehran to the **UN Security Council.** 

# US releases film of 9/11 attack on Pentagon

WASHINGTON—THE US GOV ernment Thesday released video chos for the first time showing how a hijacked airliner struck the Pentagon and exploded into a ball of fire on Sept. 11, 2001.

Two security cameras at a Pentagon parlong lot caught the moment that American Airlines Flight 77 slammed into the south west side of the military headquarters.

Although the two video clips last about two minutes, the nose of the jet is seen for only a fraction of a secand in one film before the explosion.

A huge bell of flame rises from the building and black smoke starts gushing out

The attack, which came shortly after at-Qaida hijackers flew two arrimers into the World Trade Center in New York, killed 189 people on the jet and inside the defense department beadquarters in the Washington suburbs.

The Pentagon handed the videos over to Judicial Watch, a watchdog group that sued for its release.

The jack of film evidence of the circulated since then on the Internet. attack had fueled conspiracy the-

faked or engineered by the Pentagon against itself.

French writer Thierry Meyssan advanced the theory that the attack was a hoax in a 2002 book called "LEffroyable Imposture," or "9/11. The Big Lie." The Pentagon vehemently denounced the book as an "appelling" myth concocted at the expense of the victims' families.

Other conspiracy theories preserted as mini-documentaries have The justice department had previ-

ories suggesting that it had been ously blocked demands for the release of the videos on grounds that it was evidence in the prosecution of al-Qaida plotter Zacarias Moussaoui.

During the Moussaoui trial, prosecutors showed pictures of burning bodies and human remains as well as images of the explosion triggered by the Pentagon trash.

But with Moussaoui convicted and sentenced to life in prison earlier this month for his role in the Sept. 11 consuracy, the justice department agreed to the



IMAGE shows American Airlines Flight 77 crashing into the Pentagon. Noves

# Beslan suspect guilty of terrorism

VLAD!KAVKAZ, RUSSIA-NUR- the judge told the court, reading of the entire verdict in the trial pash: Kulayev, the lone surviving hostage taker in the 2004 Beslan school massacre, is guilty of committing acts of terrorises and murder, a Russian Judge said Tuesday as he began reading the verdict in a landmark trial

The court has established that Kulayev took part in an armed attack and a hostage-taking ..., that be committed murder against defenseless people," said Tamerlan Aguzarov, chief justice of the high court in the southern Russian province of North Ossetia.

"He committed an act of terrorism with the aim of influencing the decisions of the authorities,"

from a text of the verdict.

Under the Russian legal system, the court's assertion that Kulayer, a Chechen men in his mid-20s, had committed the crimes be was charged with was not the same as a formal announcement of conviction of those crimes. But legal experts said it left no doubt that conviction lay ahead.

"He cannot be acquitted," said Tamuraz Chedzhemov, a lawyer representing the families of the victims, who said the formulation of the verdict read by the judge made it clear that the court had no doubt about Kulayev's guilt

Court officials said the reading

would take several days.

The state prosecutor in the trial voiced satisfaction at Tuesday's verdict reading.

The judge confirmed Kutayev's guilt under all eight articles of the indictment," Deputy Prosecutor General Nikota Shepel was quoted as saying by ITAR TASS news agency.

The Beslan hostage-takers had demanded the withdrawal of Russian troops from Chechnya, where they have been fighting against separatist rebel forces for must of the past 12 years.

Chechen rebel warlord Shamil Basayev claimed responsibility for the Beslan attack.

## North, South Koreans in Japan reconcile after decades of hostility

TOKYO—KOREANS IN JAPAN loyal to the communist North or the capitalist South amounced Wednesday they would work to reconcile after half a century of hostility, murroring reunification efforts on the Korean peninsula.

Leaders of the rival associations of Korean residents held their first meeting since they were forced to take sides after World War II.

Analysts said the thaw was bowing to reality, as the approximately 700,000 Koreans in Japan integrate and lose their affiliations with their ancestral countries.

Japanese Koreans, the country's largest minority, are mostly descendants of people who immagrated or were enslaved during Tokyo's 1910-1945 occupation of

the Korean peninsula. "Wescome," leaders of the North Korean association Chongryon said as they received the pro-Secul Mindan group at their headquarters, which serves as Pyongyang's de facto embassy in Tokyo in the absence of diplomatic ties.

After signing a joint statement, Mindan President Ha Byeong-ok standing amagonism and confronta-



LEADERS of pro-Secul and pro-Pyongyang Korean residents' groups in Japan embrace after agreeing to reconcile.

and Chongryon chair So Man-sui shook each other's hands twice and then hugged each other.

The two groups said they would start reconciliation efforts with symbolic events, such as jointly celebrating the independence of Koreans from Japanese colonial rule on Aug. 15.

"We confirmed with each other that we will family convert our long-

rization," a joint statement said.

Chongryon and Mindan 'hereby declare our will to contribute to our homeland's integration and prosperity in the 21st century," it said.

The two Koreas are moving closer together under the "sunshipe policy" launched by former South Korean president and Nobel laureate Kim Dae-jung, who travelled to Pyongyang in 2000 for a historic summit.

But the reconciliation in Japan also reflects declining support for the two groups, Around 10,000 Koreans take Japanese nationality each year, usually through marriage.

However, some 60 Japanese nationalists picketed the Chongryon building, which is closely monitored by Japanese intelli-gence. They held a banner calling the North a "terrorist state" as the pro-Seoul delegates arrived.

Mindan says it has 500,000 members. Chongryon does not give an official number of its membership, which is believed to have fallen sharply since 2002 when North Korea admirted kidnapping Japanese citizens during the Cold War.

# Poisoned town wants Saddam's chemical suppliers to pay

HALABJA, IRAQ-AN X-RAY OF Kamil Abdei Qader's lungs show a rower third that is entirely scarred-lasting damage from the poisonous gas that rained down on his Iraqi Kurdish town of Halabja in 1988.

**CHINA SANDSTORM** 

blasted by strong sandstorms.

Doctors say he needs to get a fist-size chank of tissue removed from his damaged lungs if he is going to survive, but he still considers himself the lucky one.

The rest of his family of eight dled as they fied the gas, some dropping before his very eyes as they tried to flee into the hills.

Abdel Qader wants payback—for his dead family, his shattered lungs and most of all for battered survivors of an attack that claimed 5,000 lives and destroyed a town.

Pedestrians use veils and scarves to protect their faces and eyes against strong wind and dust in

Holshot, capital city of north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, May 16. The area is often

The Halabja Chemical Victims' Society, Abdel Qader's small nonprofit organization, wants the companies and governments which helped Saddam Hussein amass his stockpiles to pay compensation.

The funds would go to the few hundred survivors of the attack that came in the waning days of the Iran-Iraq war that raged berween 1980 and 1988.

Though Abdel Qader blames the attack on Saddam and the mastermind of a sweeping and-Kurd campaign, Ali Hassan al-Majid, dubbed Chemical Alf" for this attack and others, he said commercial enterprises from around the world shared responsibility for helping arm the regime.

"We are trying to find the companies that helped the Iraqi government get chemical weapons for Saddam. We are trying to tell the world what happened here," said as earsciased Abdel Oader as he sat crosslegged on a carper in his home.

The names of specific firms which sold frag the equipment and expertise needed to assemble its chemical arsenal have never been released.

A UN special disarmament commission UNSCOM set up after the 1991 Gulf War over Kuwait to investigate Saddam's weapons arecnais protected its sources in order to encourage disclosure.

It is believed that just as the US government provided Saddam with intelligence and dual-use technology, such as helicopters, to combat Iran, a long list of Western

firms made fortunes exporting chemicals and armaments to Washington's one-time ally.

Abdel Qader has suffered severe health problems for the past 18 years, including chronic bronchids, severe pulmonary fibrosis and opacity of the left names -- conditions that doctors said affect a high number of Halabja residents.

Saddam is currently on trial on charges of ordering the killing of 148 Shine villagers in the mid-1980s, after which he will face charges of genocide for the "Anfal" campaign against the Kurds in which an estimated 100,000 died Prosecutors are expected to

press charges linked to Halabja in a separate case, but Abdel Qader and other Kurdish activists said the courts should also prosecute those who gave Saddam the tools of his trade.

Those who are suffering need a lot of money to get treatment in Western hospitals, We want to see those who helped Saddam punished and our rights restored," said Abdel Qader, who needs costly medical treatment abroad.



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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

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# Santy nears Tour title

By Musong R. Castillo

STA. ROSA, LAGUNA-TIME FOR THE

Except for one fleeting moment, Santy Barnachea made the sixth stage of the Tour Pilipmas Tanduay Padyak Pinoy an uneventful one for his closest pursuer yesterday and set the stage for his date with cycling immortality.

Barnachea clung to the overal, lead with

determination, sticking to Frederick Februano like glue after briefly losing him in "Tatlong Eme" to finish in the first wave of riders that Ericson Obosa towed to the wire

All that stands in the way of Barnachea is a 147.4-kilometer grind from Tagaytay via Talsay, Batangas, and back today before joining the champion's roll that includes some of the greatest, most illustrious names in the sport. And, of course, Penciano

But it seems that Santy has got it all figured out "Patay kang patay na (It's all or nothing)," Barnaches said, moments after keeping the overall jersey of leadership over Feliciano and his overnight 4-minute and 7-second advantage over the valunted mountain climber intact.

Barnachea now has a total time of 25 hours, 29 minutes and 8 seconds with two laps left.

"Kahit anang pilit niyang kumawala, sinabayan

هين مين

# Cossack Riders keep team lead

STA. ROSA, LAGUNA-COSSACK VODKA inched closer to the team championship of the Tour Pilipinas Tanduay Padyak Pinoy after forlowing a tested game plan to the letter in the sixth lap from Lucena to here.

Rookies Edgardo Ballecer and Michael Reyes finished 3-4 for the day and anchored a strong showing by Cossack, which timed a total of 15 hours, 50 minutes and 44.912 seconds.

Cossack bloated its overal, lead to 9 minutes and 31 983 seconds over Team Elixir after Irish Valenzuela, another rookie, brought up the rear of the first group which clocked 3 hours and \$7.32 seconds for the 157 20-kilometer stage.

They could have put a fourth rider in the first group had it not been for a mechanica. problem that slowed down slopper Renato Sambrano with just over four knometers left

Today's seventh lap, a Tagaytay-to-Tagaytay grind spread over 147.4 kilometers, will serve as the final stage of the team event.

# Giants nail outright semis slot

GAMES TOMORROW (Ynares Conter) 4:40 p.m.--San Miguei Beer vs Alaska 7:35 pure.—Talk 'N Text vs Sta. Lucia

#### By Jasmine W. Payo

THEIR LINEUP DEPLETED, THEIR MORALE at a low, the Purefoods Giants were supposed to be dead meat last right

Or so everybody thought. At least, everybody not wearing a Purefoods

The Giants drew inspiration from an absent teammate, one of many who did not show up due to injuries, and shocked the beefed up Talk N Text Phone Pals, 72-69, to claim the second outright semifinal seat in the Gran Marador Brandy-

PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum. Nobody thought we could win this game but

us." said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio. The Glants were playing their first match since the freakish accident that before scrappy forward Eugene Tejada and they mustered all they could to notch their 11th win in 15 outings.

We were inspired by one person and that was Eugene," added Gregorio. Purefoods played with the number 33-Tejada's number-

stitched to their jerseys. The Phone Pais fell to 5-9 after skidding to their fifth straight loss, their longest losing streak since 2001 Talk 'N Text also hasn't won since the blockbuster trade that netted them Renren Ritu-

ato and Don Allado. Tejada is scheduled to go under the knife today to treat a spinal injury after suffering a bad fall Sunday night in what is dubbed as the worst on-court accident ever to hit the league.

The Giants also played minus key players Kerby Raymundo, Noy Castillo and Jun Limpot.

In the first game, the Coca-Cola Tigers held off the Ginebra Kings, 99-88.

Johnny Abarrientos scored six of his 11 points in the final two minutes to help end the Tigers' five-game losing streak.

"I'm just happy that we got our breakthrough win," said Tigers coach Binky Favis. The Tigers improved to 7-7 while the Kings dropped to 6-7.

The scores: First Same

COCA-COLA 98 -- Arigo 21, Rusvis 14, Peek 14, Miranda 12, Aberdanios 11 Antonio 9, Martanii B, Waltwright 7, Fran-

GINEBRA 88-Helterbrand 33, Cagulos 13, Marik 11, Holper 5, Satangsang 4, Salvacion 3, Ramos 2, Farrerie 2, Solto 2. Okrowinshan 2.

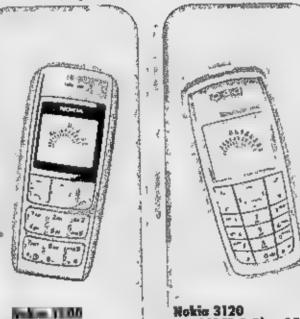
Quarters 25-21, 50-40, 77-82, 99-88 Second Barno

PUREFOODS 72-J. Yap 24, Simon 11, Evangelists 11 Pinoris B, Yee S, R. Vap 5, Artacli 3, Gamboa 2 Billiones Q.

TALK 'N TEXT 88-Texters 14, Ribusto 14, Washington 11, Cantiona Q. Alapan B. Panto S. Allado 3, Balano 3, Cassy 2, Julido O. Fran O.

Quarters 13-18, 32-32, 56-53, 72-69

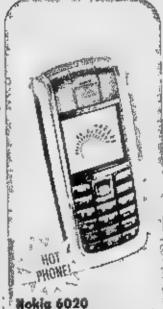
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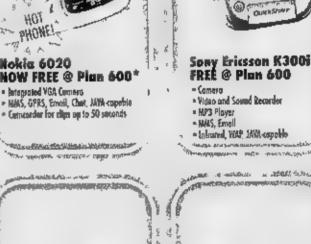
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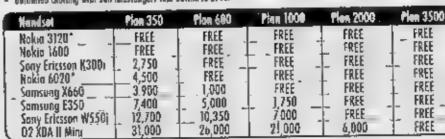
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#### PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRERS **S**PORTS

### NCAA names Jun B commissioner INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM AND EXPERI-

Iligan hands Bacchus 2nd straight loss

ELIGAN CITY-MAYOR LAWRENCE CRUZ'S ILL gan Crusaders dealt Bacchus/Harbour Centre-Manita its second strught loss with a masterful 85-70 victory Tuesday in the 2005 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball championship at the packed MSU-IIT gym here.

Last year's MVP Christian Nicdao played his best game so far to lead the Firefly Lightingsbacked Crusaders to their seventh win in 10 games with 25 points on an eye-popping 11-of-13 shooting plus 11 rebounds.

After dealing defending champion Ozamiz Cotta its first loss in the southern division, the Manilehos of businessman Mikee Romero and coach Lawrence Chongson sputtered in the fourth quarter and ended their southern swing with their

fourth defeat in 10 games. Nicdao scored 11 of his points in the payoff penod, which saw Ozamiz overcome a 59-61 deficit to pull away and remain behind southern division leader Ozamiz.

The scurts

#JGAN 85-Nicting 25, Omiping 15, Notice 14, Go 9, Keiser R, Ayodelin S, Sagad 4, Hubaide 2, Tajonara 2, Gandarosa O, Inguines O. Baguio O.

BACCHUS/MARBOUR 70-Sta. Cruz 15, Hardin 11, Pribdhae 11, Marchitere 10, Jay Cueves B, Coyultang 5, Relage 4, Reyes 3, Jun Cuevas 2 Mesbeno II.

Charles 23-20, 41-40, 59-81, 85-70.

# **NBC** selections playing abroad

THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL CONFERENCE (NBC) has been invited to play in two international tournaments—one in Taiwan and the other in

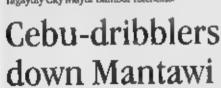
Hua Lien Probation Association president Lin Yo-Chih invited NBC, through president Nathaniel "Jac" Padilla, to compete in the Hua Lien Probation Basketball Champtonship on May 25-28 in Hua Lien, Taiwan.

The NBC Selection has also been requested to defend its title in the Crown Prince's Cup tournament on June 26-July 2 in Hatyar, Songkhe, That

"We're honored to be invited to these two international events," said Padilla, "We'll definitely do our best to bring honors to the country."

The NBC board has decided to send a selection of the best players in the northern division to play in Hua Lien. The best cagers in the southern division will carry NBC's colors in Thailand.

We're looking forward to show our Asian neighbors that we're still a power to recken with in the region," said NBC executive vice president and Tagaytay City Mayor Bambol Tolentino.



(Mandane City Guitural and Sports Complex) 5:30 p.m.—Altantawi vs Cebu Landmaster-Toledo

TOLEDO CITY HOST CEBU LANDMASTER Toledo smashed the visiting Mantawi Traders, 76-62, to begin the Visayas Division Semifinal Round of the ML Kwarta Padala Mindanao Visayas Baskerball Association (MVBA) First Conference at the Marcelo Barba Sports Center Tuesday right

Guard Alex Campier connected on back-toback triples in the first quarter to give the Landmaster quintet of realtor Joe Soberano and Coach Jun Tan the lead for good, 8-4. From there it was an all-Landmaster show as center Rex Mangubat and swingman Ronald Paraiso combined for 19 points in the second quarter to peg the halftime munt at 43-18.

Mantawi top gun Doroteo Almacin scored 15 points, all in the second half. Randy Sevilla added 12 and guard Kim Calo 10 for the Traders of Mayor Thadeo Ouano.

BY TOP CHOICE

Rece 1--(Ort/Tri)---Marlour's Charm (2), Princess Loights (4), Septeda (5),

Race 2—(Penin/Orl/76)—Socisty Climber (5), Ocsan Digitally (4), Diamond Sky (8), Island King (7).

Lucky Fil 10) 3—(Ort/To)— Rauth (2). Earl Gray/Tens Jalund (8). Argte: Omact 1), Lord Of

Alt (3) Race 4—[Perris/Ort/Tri] - Per Tough (3), Odyssey (2), Luck of the test (1), Raven (4), Andorra (8) Race 5-(Ponta/Orl/Trl)---Dint Khoti (1 ., Uncle (2) Rad Storm (4), Makalı Maven (7), Step on the Gas (10) 5—(Pan Is/On/Tri)—Common

Gopi (9), Beat D'Reat (1), St. Jek Jek (5), Spend Land (2), Fair Jidula (4) Race 7—(Penis/Ori/Tri)—Obe is The Younger (4) Purilesammesan (5) Crystel City (6), Full Di Furv (1), Pinter Don't Step (2)

8--(Super S/Ort/(rl)- Ferririuna:Wotern Clause (\*1), Wreckuig Bell (\*2), Mana Po (6), West (N Wild (10). Die: Otel Otel (1, Sincer



ence are what Emilio "Jun" Bernardino Jr. will bring as he assumes the position of basketball commissioner of the National Collegiate Athletic The former Philippine Basketball Association

commissioner was officially named during a joint meeting by the NCAA Policy Board and Management Committee yesterday at the St. Benide Ho-

Bernardino is no doubt the right man for the job as the NCAA celebrates its 82nd season to be host-

ed by College of St. Benilde with his vest experience and knowledge in basketball, highlighted by his stint in Asia's first play-for-pay loop.

The former University of the Philippines Maroon was named PBA commissioner in 1994. He stepped down after the 2002 season due to a heart

"It is my pleasure to serve the NCAA for the 82nd season. Considering what basketball has given me, un terms of where I am now, I think it is (but) natural that I give back what I have received throughout the years," said Bernardino.

The NCAA men's basketball tournament starts June 24 at the Araneta Coliscum, with the Letran Knights shooting for back-to-back titles.

After playing for the Marcons, Bernardino joined Tefflin in 1979 as an assistant coach to Fely Rajardo for two PBA seasons. When the dub das-

banderi in 1981, he turned to broadcasting In July that year, Bernardino joined the league as executive secretary. He went on to become executive director then deputy commissioner and finally, commissioner—the youngest to be appointed at the age of 46.

# Spinners try to take heat out of Sparks

IT SEEMED THE MAGNOLIA SPINNERS HAVE TO RELEARN EVERY thing in the PBL Unity Cup.

**GAMES TODAY** 

(Göveraz Sports

Contar)

2 p.m. -- Magnolla vs

Toyota Offis

4 o.m.—Montada va

Hapes-PCL

Considered a shoo-in in the title series when the tournament started, coach Koy Banas had to challenge the Spinners "to figure out how to win" to stay in the run-

Relief came for Bana. when the Spuriers scored their first back-toback victories last week that boosted their campaign for the second twice-to-beat quarterfinal incentive.

But the Spanners must dispose the overachieving Toyota One Sparks at 2 p.m. today to

Aiready semifinai-bound, Toyota Our will be playing pressure-free like the Montaña Pawnshop, which will tackle Hapee-PCU in the second game at 4 p.m. at the Olivarez Sports Center in Parahaque.

Granny Goose already claimed the first twice-to-beat edge in the quarterfinals after finishing the elimmation round at third place.

> STAGE 6 RESULTS

1 E. Ohosa (Inca), 3:57:32 2. W. Davadilla (Mail & More), same time

Banal said Magnolia, which is contesting the remaining quarterfinal incentive versus Rain or Shine, has to end its inconsistent run.

"That is the hump we have to overcome," said Banal

Sparks coach Louie Alas, however, feels the Spurners will always be tough to figure out.

Thyone Otis has only beaten Magnolia once in 10 matches since joining the league two years

Meanwhile, the Jewels will be gunning for a sweep over Hapee-PCU after winning their first encounter, 90-81, in overtime.

Ken Bono will be coming off a near-perfect performance shooting 7-of-8 from the field-to finish with 15 points against Toyota Otis last

Hapee-PCU dropped out of the quarterfinal race after absorbing its sixth straight loss versus Magnolia.

- 3, 6 Ballezer\*(Cossack Voctor), same time
- 4, M. Reyes (Cossack Vedks), same lime
- 5. B. Sepmo\* (Air21) same time 6. H. Mangahits (Sunbolt), same time
- 7. J. Guevarra\* (Go21), same time
- B. F. Feliciano (Air21), sume lime.
- 9. J. Ricatort (Elizar Sports), same time 10. S. Barnachez (Sunbolt), same time

A PNP Special Action Force member poors water at the main pack of riders cycling along the national highway in Lucana City.

# Santy nears Tour title Proper page A-21

ko tataga (I stuck to him no matter how hard he tried)," Barnachea said, referring to Feliciano. "Siya na lang talaga ang natitirang kalaban (He's the only one who can beat me now)."

The winner of the "killer" San Pernando to Baguio third stage on Sunday, Renciano tried to mount a breakaway when the pack hit the "Tatlong Eme" climb in Paghilao, Quezon.

He built a lead of more than a minute over the fourth group which the 30-year-old Bar nachea towed, but soon found the four-day overall leader keeping him company in the

flat roads of Candelana town. The frontrunners expect the final .ap-a 75 km criterium race around Marikina tomorrow-to be just a formality

"Same time na komi matetapos lahat dun (We will all have the same time in that lap)," said Obosa, who pocketed his second stage win by copping the 157.2-km lap yesterday in 3 hours, 57 minutes and 32 seconds.

11 D. Marana 'Mail & More), same time

14. I. Valenzusta\* (Cossack Vodica), same time

15. P. Calosa\* (One Shot Wonder), 3:58:15

12. O. Randole (Inca), same time

13. T. Martinez (Red Bull), seme time

1. S. Barnachea (Sunbott), 25:29:06

2 F Feliciano(Arr21), 25:33:15

incline. But all things being equal, Bar nachea's 4.07 lead seems impregnable Warren Davadilla, stayed in seventh spot, still 13:24 behind Barnachea and 10 seconds

just a 9-km stretch of road with a 40-degree

Obosa, who ruled the opening stage from

Quezon City to Cabanatuan on Friday, stayed in

third, 7 minutes and 13 seconds behind, followed

by rookie Irish Valenzuela and Tomas Martinez

nachea from winning this Tour is a major acadent

or equipment maintraction since the stage today

does not offer that hard a challenge to the field.

It seems that the only thing that can prevent Bar-

The "Sungay Road" in Talisay, Batangas, is

who trailed by 8:42 and 10:14, respectively.

off the sixth-placed Renato Sambrano. Rookie Harvey Sicam, third after the first

two stages, stood in eighth spot, 13.45 adrift, with Amei Quirimit, the 2003 champ when the Tour was revived, and Reinhard Gorrantes rounding out the Top 10

- 3, E. Obosa (Inca), 25:36:22
- 4. I. Valenzuelan (Cossack Vortice). 25:37:50
- 5 T. Martinez (Fled Bull), 25:39:22 8. R. Sambrano (Cossack Vodka). 25:42:22
- 7 W. Davadille, 'Mail & More), 25:42:32
- B. H. Sicam\* (Elixir Sports), 25:42:54
- 9. A. Quarimili (Elixir Sports), 25:46:06
- 10. R. Goranies (Go21), 25:52:15

# down Mantawi Adamson too powerful for UE spikers



ENGLAND's Theo Walcott (third from left) takes part in a fitness test with teammates during an England squad pre-World Cup soccer training session at Vale Do Lobo, Algarve, Portugal. House

4 p.m.--SSC vs JE 6 p.m.—PCU vs Lycoum

#### By Marc Anthony Rayes

ADAMSON UNLEASHED THE FULL EXTENT OF its volleyball power against hapless University of the East, 25-20, 25-9, 25-19, last night to improve the record it will carry into the next round of the Shakey's WLeague at the Blue Eagle Gym.

Already in the semifinals and battling a wintess foe, the Lady Palcons refused to hold their punches and pounded the Lady Warriors mercilessly to post their fifth win an six games.

The Lady Warriots, who fell to 0-6, never got going although they were able to pile up points in the latter part of the first and third sets when the Lady Paleona experimented

National team mainstay Cherry Rose Macatangay led Adamson's attack as expected, scoring 14 outright winners to finish with 20 po Rissa Jane Laguilles added eight kills out of her nune points.

But the Lady Falcons got a big scare when pret ty libero Donna Leil Adajar hurt her elbow while diving for a save and colliding with team captain Kristine Ann Dave in the second set. She bruised her right allow in the process.

Adamson coach Minerva Pante said the mjury was "nothing serious" and that the 5-foot defense specialist would be ready to play in the carry-over sentis which starts next week

Public de Leon, one of the Adamson guest play ess, contributed 10 points, including two blocks to assist Macatangay at the net. The 5-foot-11 Macatangay finished with three blocks.

# QCHS, St. Joseph bets gain q'finals

QUEZON CITY HIGH SCHOOL RALlied to beat University of Perpetual Laguns, 7-25, 25-20, 25-21, in the Shakey's Girls Voneyball Invitational League at the Ateneo Blue Eagle Gym.

Fresh from the recent Naga Palarong Pambansa, the trio of Mary Rose Cabanag, Girlie Quemada and Mikaela Morada combined for 15 kills and 6 blocks as against 12 kills and 4 blocks by Jennelyn Belen, Jessica Curato and Sarah Jane Gonzales of LPHL

With the win, QCHS is now solo

leader in Bracket B with a 3-0 slate | berth with a 4-0 slate having won its and is assured of a berth in the quar-

In other matches, St. Joseph College beat UP Integrated School in straight sets 25-17, 25-9, Diliman Preparatory School deaft Imas Instirute its second ioss 25-17, 25-15.

University of Perpetual Help Molno defeated Grace Christian School in 25-14, 21-25, 25-17

In Bracket D, University of the East, the reigning UAAP jumor division champion, is likewise assured of a

match against Mater Beclesiae 25-13.

Hope Christian School hopes to win on Thursday when they play Prenza Nat'l High School to sweep Bracket A unto the quarter-finals.

The Shakey's Girls Volleybal, Invitational League is supported by Dunkin Donuts, Toby's Sports, Mikasa, the Official Volleyball, Asics and Air Philippines.

Six matches are scheduled tomor row at the Ateneo gym.



RAFFLE WINNER. Rado raffles off its top of the line watch, the VIOK, which was won by Ryan Cruz (center) during the recent Bill Shaw tilt. With Cruz are Archie Lacson and Wack Wack sports and games chair Pablo Soon.

# Magallanes, Camacho ahead

PAVORITES LED BY REY JOMAR Magailanes of the University of the East posted perfect scores of two points Tuesday along with 25 other seeded players in the 2006 National Juniors elimination being held at St. Francis Square in Mandaluyong City.

Also with two points were Ivan Gil Biag of UP, Froilan Bolico III of PEU, Catribano Pestaño, Jimsoon Bitoon of Cebu, Anseimo Mercado Jr., Marvin Ting from Negros and

Bryan Jose of MIT. In the distaff side, 12-year old Cheradee Camacho of La Union sed with two points along with 26 others. Tied with her were Jan Jodayn Fronda, Jedara Docena, Ruip Ylem Jose, Geneline De Ramos, Eden Tumbos, Gina Edaniol, Cheyzer Mendoza and Jayveetyn Fronda.

NCFP president Rep Prospero "Buth" Pichay and secretary-general and Tagaytay City Mayor

Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino made the ceremonia, moves last Monday, The nine-round Swiss event, which used 452 players, is being supported by ON-LINE MedEx with C.H.I RS by ON LINE Care Corp., St. Francis Square, Milo, Living Colours Digital Ads & Prints and PSC.

Meanwhile, the elimination for the age-group will be on May 21-25 auto at the same venue.

#### Parica keeps clean record

FELIPINO VETER an Jose "Amang" Parica rupped Mike American. Davis, 11-10, yesterday to post his third straight win and remain unscathed in the 2006



PARICA Enjoypool.com 9-Ball Championship at the

Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevuda. Parica, who led the Pilipuno billingds invasion in the US in the mid-80s, earlier trounced American Nick Verner, 11-8, and Canadian No.2 Luc Saivas, 11-6.

He will next face former world champion Johnny Archer of the US.

Earlier, Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat suffered his first loss at the hands of ex-US Open titlist American Corey Deuel, 11-7, to join fellow Pilipino Santos Sambajon in the loser's bracket

bowed to Nicolas Guimond, 11-5, in the secand round. He will face David Relific in the

Sambajon beat Joey Korsiak, 11-7, but

Efren "Bata" Reyes and Dennis "Surigao" Orcollo are building each other in the third Marion Bernardino

# Long shots Yee, Villa gain NTCC semis slots

MATCHES TODAY (\$ a.m.)

Ladies semilinets: Dyna Rodriguez (Riviera) vs Vinica Godie (Sta. Elens/Alabang), Kwon Ye Seul (Eagle Ridge) vs Kathisen Jy (Cebu)

Mun's semifinale: Zaldy všila (Valley) ve. Yootsie de Je ens (Tagrytay Highlands), Edmund Yea (Manila Southwoods) vs Park Jong Soo (Eastridge)

by Jong Arcano

GEN. TRIAS, CAVITE-THEY CRAMMED for practice together at the four Eagle Ridge courses they hardly knew. Aside from their lack of knowledge of the venues, Edmund Yee and Zaldy Villa felt they were too old to have a chance against the young ones in the National Tournament of Club Champions here

Three days into the tourney presented by Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp and INQUIRER Golf, most of the top seeds are gone but the two businessmen in their late 40s are still very much alive.

Southwoods bet Yee, owner of a car distribution franchise, and Velley's Vi.la, who oper

KATHLEEN Uy ates a metal fabrication firm, posted 1 up victories against separate rivals yesterday to reach the semifinals at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club

After ousting young Mike the of Rivers in the round of 16, Villa enhanced his giant-killer tag by eliminating top seed Venjo Reyes of Manila Golf while Yee re-asserted his mastery of Indren Naudoo of Alabang in pulsating matches

In today's Final Four, Yee faces Jong 500

Park, the man who beat him in a due; for the Eastridge title, and Villa squares off with Tootsie de Jesus of Tagaytay Highands, Park defeated Jan Coup Tambogon of Eagle Ridge, 28.1, and de Jesus squeaked past Oliver Gan of Tagaytay Midiands, 1 up

In the raches division, junior players Cyna Rodriguez of Riviera and Kwon Ye Seul moved closer to an expected showdown for the crown by ripping their opponents.

Rodingues, 14, clipped Maan Legaspi, 483, to forge a semis duel with Vinice Godio while Kwon, 15, was merciless in a 68:4 stoppage of Beachie Abiera (Southwoods/Tagaytay Midiands).

Godio, who represents Sta. Elena and Alabang, scored a 2&1 decision over Matet Salivto to earn another trip to the semis. Kwon tackles Kathleen Uy, a 5&4 winner over Lyn Mangulabnan.

Sponsors of the NTCC are Stal Lucia Realty, Callaway as the official apparel, Isuzu the official vehicle, Titleist the official ball, PAL the official carrier, Chivas Regal, The Travel Club and Pacific Air Media. Platonic, the first locally assembled golf cart, is hole-in-one sponsor.

# Park, Gabasa lead winners

**EDIGUND Yea: Surprise survivor** 

JONG SOO PARK OF EASTRIDGE DIS played brute strength and 11-year-old trins Gabera holed a long 40-foot purt to lead the winners in the Isuzu Skills Challenge of the National Tournament of Club Champions at the Eagle Rudge Golf and Country Club.

The landy Park, son of a Korean business exec utive, hit a 319-yard drive to rule the longest drive competition while punt-sized Gabasa, representing Alta Vista, won the putting contest

Edmund Yee of Manita Southwoods, Roder Mangulaboan and Thotsie de Jesus took the other awards in the men's division while Viruce Godio, Mater Salivio and Maan Legasol were the other prize winners in the distaff side

Yee topped the bunker competition, De Jesus the pitching contest and Manguahnan the putting event

Godio was closest to the pin while Legaspi hit the best bunker shot. Winners received P3,000 worth of gift certificates and Isuzu golf nerns

### Echavez surges to 3-stroke lead

PAUL ECHAVEZ RODE ON A FIERY START TO fire a solid three-under par 69 yesterday and surge ahead by three strokes over Jun Bernis harfway through the Samsung Amateur Golf Tour at the Summit Point and Country Club in Lips, Bacanges, yestertiay

Echavez, one of the recipients of the Na tional Caddies Open program, birdied Nos. 6, 8 and 9 to seize control then held on to his lead with a two-birdie, two-bogey stint at the back for a 33-36 card

Counting his even par round on the firm day, the 17-year-old Echavez from Apo posted a 36-hole total of 141 going into the final two rounds of this event serving as the second legof a five-stage series backed by Samsung

Bernis padded his overnight one-shot lead to two with a birdie on No. 2, but the Canubeng bet couldn't match Echavez's run

Gary Sales moved one rung up to No. 3 with a 74 but fell behind by seven with a 148 while former champion Kim Chang Hoi carded = 73 to tie Ronnie Torrecumpo, who fired a one-under par 71, at 149

#### FH Invt'l starts today

MORE THAN A HUNGRED TWO-MAN TEAMS PAR bicloate in the sixth edition of the Forest Hills invitational golf tournament starting today. Forest Hills Golf Club will again host the armust four-day tournement co-presented by Golforce Inc. and Wilson Sports together with major sponsors New Life Center and Footbink The field, composed of a Forest Hits member and his guest, will be competing for the coveted overall charapronship in three divisions. Attractive holes-in-one prizes are also at states a brand-new Tuscan from Hyundai, a golf cart from Club Car plus Nike and Wilson golf sets courtesy of Pacaports and Sports Specielists Worldwide, Aslawide Refreshments Corp. (RC Cole), CJH Dev. Co., CJH Martor Hotel, lawyer Gilberto Duavit, Ericsson, Fairways and Bluewater, Gerry's Gritt, Gruppo Armani, MRT. Philippine Artines, Purns Time. er and Solar Sports are the other aponeors.

### Live, and in color, the horror that was Tejada

IN HIS POURTH SEASON IN THE PBA, Eugene Tejada suffers the horror of a fall that injures his neck and cervices/spinsl cord. Live, and in

At Makeri Med where Tejada is confined, doctors say Tejada might need a AIS. surgery, if not surgeries, to hopefully return him to his original, hearthy self

What happened to both Superman and EZ Zobel, wheelchair bound for years before they died due to spinal injuries after fatting off horses, assentits the mund

Please say a prayer for the Fu-Am. whose basketball career—should medical masters mercifully fail-is in danger of having an abrupt end

Far from turning 30, Tejada's too young to lose a profession

One "Our Father" for Tejada, \_1 recently suffered a similar face

men a ply termed "cervical disc inpun "Not from basketball, though, but from writing too much

Who said writing use't hazardous to

in my case, X-rays and MRIs showed my C 3-4-5 misaligned, the result of too much sitting while writing. Asian Hospital's Dr. Antonio Ma G. Calance and Capitol's Dr. Editha A Tueson have agreed on putting me to a multiple-session, four-week thera py/rehab at Capitol under expert PTs Bjorn Berber and Jade Francisco

Thank God, two more rehabs and

Golf, here I come

Tejada was playing his 70th PBA game when he lost his rebound but ance and few buttocks first

That was last Sunday, May 14, when Purefoods, Tejada's third PBA team in three years after Alaska 2003 2004 and San Miguel Beer 2005, was playing Red Bull

Sunday's game made him accumulate a total of 595 minutes, the last 9 of which saw him score 2 points on 1-of-



2 shooting, snare 2 rebounds and block one shot

This particular Sunday, he piayed 3 minutes in the first quarter and was 0for-1 from the field, 2 minutes each in the second and third. In the third, he was 1-of-1-his basket making it 37-57. Purefoods belund, with 4:20 gone in the period

Barely two minutes after coach Ryan Gregorio fielded Tejada in the fourth, Tejada' would suffer the tragedy that threw the league in panic as it absorbed its most serious accident since the PBA's birth in

Playing in his 12th game in the 14th match for Purefoods in the conference, Telada would soon rank it as the game he hoped he'd never played in

it happened with the score pegged at 73-54, Red Bull up, 5:43 left in the

You are down by 19 points with under 6 minutes left, who would die playing for a win?

Tejada, ir'd be Giants' Roger Yap had missed on a lay-up. Tejada went for the rebound, caught some skin of Yap and both fell.

in a spat second, the lumbering Mick Pennisi of Red Bull, ail of 6-foot 10, fell on Tejada, 6-foo: 5 1/2, as Yap was picking himself safely up

When he hit wood, Tejada said he heard —felt?—a crack in his body.

Soon, he is ne writhing in pain Soon, he'd be in tears

Soon, he'd find his girl friend, the actress Jenny Pernandez, consoling him no end with ABC-5's Pat

As he lay there numb from waist down, a teammate, Kerby Raymundo. heid his hand

Other teammates, team officials and doctors from both friend and ene

my camps hovered around him Nobody would touch him as though he had the bubonic plague

Because Lifeline Arrows wasn't around, had no standby ambulance an stark violation of league contracts, Tejade lay on the floor for nearly 40 minures helpless as a car his by a hisand-run manuac

If a fam gone berserk had shot Tejada in the leg instead of Tejada suffer ing the fall, the poor kid would have died from loss of blood

Gosh, Antipolo's Ynares Center, scene of the accident, was almost an hour away from Makati Med1

Stretcher and ambulance, where were they for Christakes?

"Caloy" had swept them off to the South Chma Sea?

Rene Pardo would have been justi hed tearing the Lifetine Arrows logo instead of kicking the dilapidated mattress being offered to load Tejada en route to the invisible ambulance

If Commissioner Eals is still sharpening his arrows right now to shoot down Lifeline, I recommend instead

an AK-47 Quicker Deadlier What will happen now to Tejada, born in Daly City and who turns 26 on Sept. 24, not even his father, Danilo, a former basketball player himself from Rosario, Batangas, would know. Nor his mother, Angeles, a murse from Bas

avan, Batangas Tejada's Dad and Mom have arrived from the United States where they've been living for decades—the just four years far from their son

In times like this, please light a candie for the art of coping with tragedy -if ever there is one

Comments to menju@pickdsl.net

#### SPORTSWATCH

#### World Cup tour

THE "SPORTSPLUS WORLD CUP GOAL GETAWAY" will try to eruse the notion that soccer is played excitasively on flatlands as it visits Bagulo City on Saturday The touring event organized by Solar Entertainment Corp in cooperation with the Philippine Football Fed gration headed by Johnny Romusidez has already had stops in Subic, Davao City. Attendo football pitch in Loyola Heights and San Carlos City. It is stated in never different varues on the weekends leading to the 2006 Fifs World Cup in Germany

#### PCRC summer fun run

THE PASIG CITY RUNNING CLUB IS HOLDING ITS 7th PCRC 5K and 10K summer fun run on Sunday with 3,000 runners expected to participate. Starting at 5 a.m. just outside the Ultra and finishing inside the track oval, the event, sponsored by Pharmaton and supported by the city government of Pasig headed by Mayor Vicente Eusebio, will have age-group caleportes in the 10K distance aside from the overall winners. The 10K run winner will receive P3,000

#### Pisa Maritume Golf

DORIS MAGSAYSAY HO, CHA/R AND PRESIdant of the Philippine interstand Shipping As sociation, announced the staging of the 3rd P sa Maritime Golf Tournament on May 26 at the Orchard Golf and Country Club in Dasmarifias, Cavita DOTC Secretary Leandro Mendoza will do the ceremonial tee-off Ca., (02 404-1260

**Drag racing Saturday** 

TOP DRIVERS GEAR UP FOR THE SECOND LEG OF the 2006 Red Horse-PCSO National Drag Racing Championship this Salunday at the Drag Strip of the Batangas Racing Circuit, Registration is now ongoing. Participants may contact BRC operations manager Rodini Rivera or Nelson Gayola et (632) 817-2241, 729-5365 or fax 815-1241 Leo Joel Cordero and Dave Jobs are the top tavorites

Pili Kaogma Speedfest

THE ULTIMATE SPEEDFEST CHAMPIONSHIP OF MP Turbo will be part of the weeklong celebration of the Kaogma Fastival at the Camarines Sur Provincial Capitol Complex in Pili. The Kaogma Speedfest combines motocross on Saturday and 4x4 time trials, underbons trials and fun games on Sunday, Other sport aclivities are the 4x4 extreme race, shooting and air soft competitions and wateboarding. For info, call or laid 09194921575 or a-mail moturbo@mydestiny.net.

#### Mitra, Hufano lead

ABM PALAWAN VINO, AN ENTRY OF REP BAHAM Micra, dominated the elimination round of National Federation of Gametowi Breeders (NFGB) 5-building derby Tuesday night at the Araneta Collseum after positing a perfect score of four points. Pable Hufans of Pangasinan (Partners Balani) also scored four points to lead the early qualifiers. The second round elimination continues today at the Araneta Collseum with 80 fights, NFG8 president Riccy Palmanes Jr. said that over 200 entries from 18 breaders organizations are expected for this event which stakes P3 mil-Non, Entry lee is P15,000

Kayang-Kaya cockfest

NO LESS THAN P1 5 MILLION IN GUARANTEED prize awaits the champions in another block buster cocklest at Rougen Mega Cockpit, dubbed as Kayang-Kaya 5-cock derby on May 30, June 1 and 3 Host Rolly Ligar pegged the entry tee at P7,700 and minimum bet at P4,400. The lastest win champion will drive home a three-door Palero (automatic with aircon). Meanwhile Rokgon's weekly Fastest Win Event One-Cock Jiutan/Hackfight resumes tomorrow



ARS-CEN's Apolio Tenorife leads a long train of Ford Fecus racing cars around the track.

### FORMER PRESS UNDERSECRETARY MIKE TOLEDO

bested eight other personalities in the finals to seal victory in the Ford Pocus Cetebriry-Media Cup for Charity or gamzed by the Thaton Racing School recently

Toledo tops Ford race

Toledo, a lawyer, emerged as the top driver in a field that was whittled down from 80 participants to just nine finalists. In the final race, Toledo shot off the line and into the lead without ever looking back and crossed the finish line at the end of eight laps with a 3-second margin over restaurateur Louie Ysmael

The event is powered by Ford Racing and supported by Addict Mobile, E-Standard Insurance, Petron Ultron, Bosch Goodyear, Rota, Oakley, Epson, Tradeshow, H&R. Starbright Body Kits, Manila Speedzone, Trapik.com, Cl. Philippine Star, Bravura, K&N, Sikkens and Palmer-Asia.

Toledo won P100,000, which will go to his designated beneficiary, the Leukemic Indigent Fund Endowment, puts a handsome trophy.

# RP netters beat Hong Kong in World Jrs

THE PHILIPPINES BEAT HONG KONG. 2-1 at the start of the World Juniors Tennis Championships Asia-Oceania zonai qualify ing tournament yesterday at the Pusat Ten-

nis Kemayoran court in Jakarta, Indonesia. Francis Casey Alcantara, coming off a twoieg sweep of the Asian 14-linder Series in Sri Lanks, secured the tie for the Fitipinos after beating Kwun-Ho James Kong, 6-0, 6-3, in the second singles.

Akio Sy, had earlier won the first singles

over Ryan Ho, 6-3, 6-1.

Hong Kong prevented a rout when the tandem of Kong and Justin To won the doubles over Kim Ivor Saraza and Sy, 3-6, 7-6 (4), 7-5.

The victory pur the seventh-seeded Philippines into a tie with second seed Japan on top of Group 4. The Japanese won over Singa pore, 3-0

Top seed China defeated Malaysia, 3-0, while Korea best Uzbekistan, 2-1, to share

Other opening-day winners were fifth seed Thatland over Iran, 3-0, and fourth seed Ch nese Taipet over New Zealand, 2-1, in Group 2, and third seed India over Pacific Oceania, 3-0, and No. 6 Indonesia over Sti Lanka, 3-0,

Meanwhile, the RP girls squad of Ma Regina Santiago, Noelle Nikki Camille Zoleta and

Zhane Quitara bowed to Chinese Tarpet, 0-3 In other results, fourth seed Japan downed Malaysia, 3-0, and fifth seed Indonesia bea-New Zealand, 2-1, in Group 2; third seed China defeated Singapore, 3-0, and No. 5 India blasted Hong Kons, 3-0, in Group 3, while second seed Thailand prevailed over Sri Lanka, 3-0, and seventh seed Koros defeated Pacific Oceania, 3-0, in Group 4

The top four teams in the boys and girls division will join the other regional qualifiers from Europe, South America, North/Central America and Caribbean and Africa in the World Junior finals scheduled Aug. 7-12 in Prostejov, Czech Republic.



BAG WINNER: Real Spicy's owners, Harrele Esqueers (right) and Make Esquerra (third from right), receive the PCSO First Gentleman Silver Cup arophy and the facaimin of the P1,1M first prise check from PCSO Chair Sergio Valencia following Real Spicy's victory in the race at the Sen Laure Leisure Park, With thom are (from loft) PCSO Committee on Races officials Play Empreerindo, Henry Beach, June Halang and Arrheatada Gyorgy Puretin of Hungary.

# SPURTS



IN THE game's defining moment, Miemi's Dwysne Wade (left) buts the mony from New Jersey's Vince Carter to seel the Heat's victory.

MIAMI-DWYANE WADE INtercepted a pass for Vince Carter as time expired, and Miami held on for a 106-105 win over New Jersey and reached the National Basketball Association semifinals for the

> second straight year. Anroine Walker scored 23 points and Wade overcame a slow start to add 21 for the second-seeded Heat on Tuesday, who eliminated the third-seeded Nets in five games and await the winner of the Detroit-Cleveland series.

> Walker and backup center Alonzo Mourning picked up the slack for Wade and Shaquille O'Neal, who again was limited by foul trouble and scored 17 points.

"We are back and playing at a high level." O'Neal saul. "Our X men are playing well. In

the best team."

A year ago, Miami lost in seven games to De troit as Wade tried to play through a painful rib

Wade has taken some terrific tumbles in this year's playoffs but the superstar guard is relatively healthy and will have at least a week off before

"We get to nest a little but then bring it on," Wade said. "It's a nate feeling knowing you're the first team (in the semis) and can watch everyone else try to get in."

After erasing a double-digit first-half deficit, the Heat never trailed in the fourth quarter, taking the lead for good at 98-96 on a breakaway dunk by Wade with 4.37 to play.

He made six-of-10 shots in the second half after a one-of-rune start.

Jason Williams scored 12 points, Mourning added 11 and Gary Payton 10 for the Heat, who shot 56 percent (42-of-75) to overcome 15-of-29 four shooting.

Jefferson sino scored 33 points, Juson Kidd

the next round we just want to play whoever is added 20 and Lamond Murray 14 for the Nets, who shot 54 percent (40-of-74).

New Jersey lost the last four games after win-

rung game one in Miarti. Behind Carter, the Nets jumped to a 33-24

lead and to 38-27 on a jumper by Kidd with 10:15 left in the second "We attacked the besket and were aggressive, but a loss is a loss.

We're going home," Carter mid. AFP



Suns outlast Clippers in 2 OT, take 3-2 lead

PHOENIX ARIZONA-SHAWN MARION scored six of his 36 points in the second overtime as Phoenix outlasted the Los Angeles Chopers, 125-118, on Tuesday to take a 3-2 lead in their quarterfinal series

"We came out, battled and hung in there pulled it out man," Marion said. "It is all about pain."

In yet another thrilling overtime postsesson game, the second-seeded Suns moved within one win of a return trip to the National Basket ball Association's penultimate round.

They blew a 19-point second-half lend and were rescued by Raja Bell, who drained a ty-

ing three-pointer with 1.1 seconds to play in the first overtime.

"It was good play call," Bell said. "I thought if I got open I was going to make it. I wasn't ready to go home yet

This has been our character all year to someone makes a mistake we don't pour fin-

Matched up against the bigger Elton Brand for most of the game, Marion did most of the work inside for the Suns.

He made 16-of 33 shots and helped Phoenix fight on the backboards. And with most players nearing exhaustion in the second overtime, Marion still had a reserve of energy.

He opened the period with two free throws Phoenix's first made foul shots since the second quarter-and added a flying follow dunk to give the Suns the lead for good at 115-113 with 3:20 remaining.

Marion appeared to hurt his ankle on the play but returned shortly thereafter. After a three-point play by Brand pulled the Clappers within 119-118 with 1:22 to go, Marion took a nifty pass from Canada's Steve Nash and made a running bank shot at the 1 '05 mark.

again as Leandro Barbosa and Nash each sunk

two foul shots to seal it.

With game six in Los Angeles on Thursday, Los Angeles was one stop from going home with a 3-2 lead after a turnover by Nash ied to two free throws by Sam Cassell that opened a 111 108 lead with 3.6 seconds left in OT.

Tim Thomas scored 25 points, Bell edded 22 and Nash 17 and 13 assists for the Suns, who shot 46 percent (49-of-107), including 11 of 29 from the arc

Brand had 33 points, 15 rebounds and five The sixth-seeded Clippers never accred blocks and Cassell scored 32 points for the Clippers, who shot 41 percent (42-of-103)

RAJA Bell (right) shoots the game-tying 3-pointer in overtime over Deniel Ewing, Att



KARATE OPEN

# National team standouts shine

TAGUM CITY-NATIONAL TEAM were Niño Franco (-55 kg. standouts Bernardino Chu, Mae Eso and Inneo Toribio stamped their class in their respective events at the end of the 19th National Karate Open championships recently at the PB San Jose Gymnasium here.

Chu, of YDKA-Cagayan de Oro, bagged the gold in the -65 kg, men's kumite category by beating Rolando Lagman of SKI-NCR in the final round.

Eso of SKI-Manila dominated the -53 KE, WOMEN'S KLINICE EVERY Again gelica Saligan in the finals while Philippune Army standout Toribio topped the -60 kg, men's loumite class after beating Cebuano karateka Jim Paredes.

Other winners in the tournament organized by Philippine Karate Federation (PICF) Region XI director Emesto Tacay

men's kumite), Adorra Aquipo (-48 kg. women's kumite), Saman Saad (men's open weight kumite) and May Libeo (women's open weight ku-

Southeast Asian Games bronze medalist Cherli Tugday was the most bemedaled karateka in the silver at 1 bronze.

The 26-year-old Tugday, who won a bronze alongside Gretchen Malalad in the 2002 Busan Asian Games, placed third behind Libao and Anisa Pangcoga in the women's open weight event. She also emerged as the champion in the -60



**MALALAD: Seeded** 

kg. kumite event while placing second in the individual kata event

Tm happy about the results we got became all members of the team qualified again, thanks to the training of our coach, David Lay" said Matalad, who is already seeded to the na tional team, along with fel low SEAG gold medalists Murna Pabiliore and Nelson

Pacalso

"We also found new potentials who could further strengthen the rational karate team and we will prepare very hard for the world garate federation championships and the Asian Games," added Malalad



# Teener Uy produces perfection

JAMES MARTIN UY, 15, SCORED A PERFECT game recently at the monthly Ruler of the Lanes tournament of the Sta. Lucia East Tenpin Bowling Association (Sletba) at the Sta. Lucia East Bowling Center in Cainta, Rizal

This was Uy's first perfect game since he took up bowling two and a half years ago. A right hander, Uy used a 15-pound Pear Factor.

"I was so nervous when 'stop bowling' was announced," Uy said. "I felt my hands trembling and cold because all eyes were on me. I turned to my coach and mentor, Mr. Mer Tan, who told me: "Huwag me nang pakawalan yan (Don't set it go)."

He took his position and calmly released the ball which rolled right into the pocket for the 300 score.

Uy, an incoming juntor at the Lourdes School of Mandautyong, is a member of the Slerbe "Batang X-tra," a group of young bowlers being trained by Tan and Boy Florenclo. Bathng X-rrs has slated a bowling fellowship on June 12 at the Sta. Lucia Bowling Center, with cash prizes at stake

The 6-foot-3 James also plays besitethall when not bowling. He said he bowls only once a week when there's classes, and practices four times a week during the summer break.

James expressed his gratitude to his father, Jimmy Uy, a businessman and himself a good bowler, mom Marilou, coach Tan and Boy Florencio, his "classmates" and friends at Batang X-tra and Sietba for their support

# Editor Emmie G. Velardo

# Wrong way to 'discover' new child star

EVERY YEAR, OUR TV CHANnels hold competitions for child performers-singers, actors. dancers, hosts, models, or all of the above. That's al. to the good, because local show business needs new infusions of young talents to help keep our shows fresh and vita.

In many instances, however, TV tilts for child talents are characterized by a wrong-headed approach to "discovering" the juvenile stars of tomorrow.

and stellar chansilia they stress pornia, gaya-gaya, iyak-tawa, and making kids look and perform like little adults.

This is terribly wrong. Even if a child is genuinely talented, by the time he or she emerges from this arjudicious process, he or she has become shallow, pa-cute, self-conscious, artificia, and cloying

This is a great pity, because Filipino children are exceptionally natural and gifted tatents-before their stage parents and the TV channels wreak their worst on

Why do they do this? Because they believe that focal viewers think kids who act like little adults are cute and smart. And because TV people go for program elements that can be depended on to instant-

sy gratify the audience, and "cute" kids, no marter how artifi ciai are thought to be a quick way to do thus

It's understandable, but it's a poor use of our young resources It also makes for dismayingly brief careers, for the most part After a year or so, the cute kid of the moment has become so predictable that he's quickly replaced with another juvenile "talent" ad nauseam

The approach is truly wrong-neaded, because local show but history completely refutes and debunks it

Think of the best child stars in past decades, like Nino Muhlach and Aiza Seguerra, and you will realize that they became young superstars precisely because they weren't porma, didn't resort to gayagaya and tyak-tawa, but were in fact origi nal talents who were refused to do what everybody else was do-

As a result, they stood out, and millions of viewers doted on them because they were genuinely smart and idiosyncrane, and loved to talk a bue

If this is the top standard, shouldn't other child takents also aspire to reach that jevel? But no, their anenlightened stage parents and knee-jerk TV people don't have the imagination, creativity and determination for it So, most young tal-



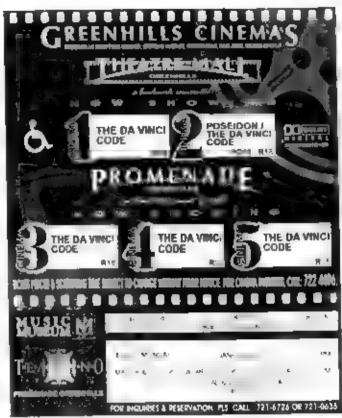
In spite of so many kiddie talent tilts, Instead on focusing on real talent why we don't have a major child star today? The fault is in the brutes who mishandle them

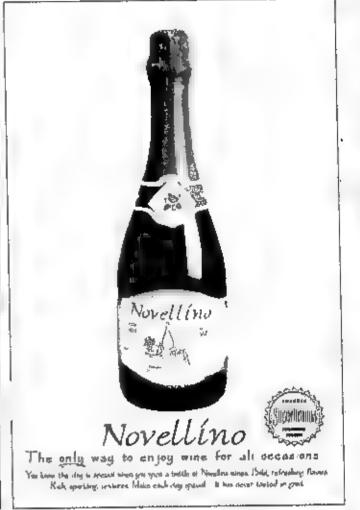
> ents are compromised much too early in the game, before they can really soar

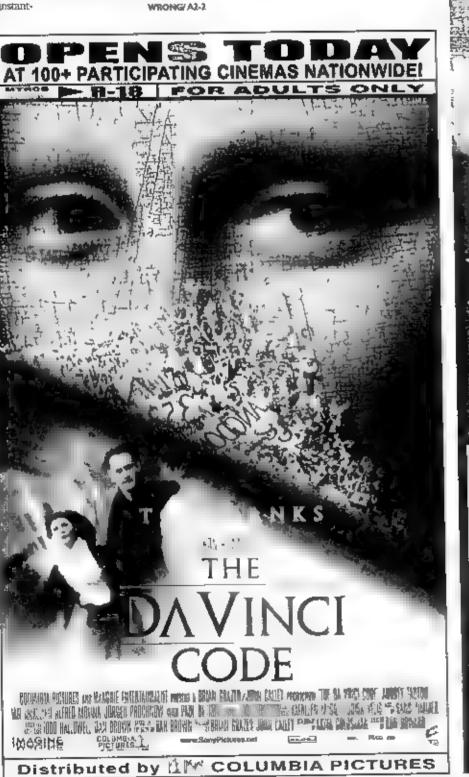
Is it any wonder, therefore, that, even after so many kiddle talent tilis, we don't have a major child star today? The fault, dear readers, isn't in

our child talents, but in the brukes who mishandle them, and thus pre-

WRONG/A2-2











PICTURES 1

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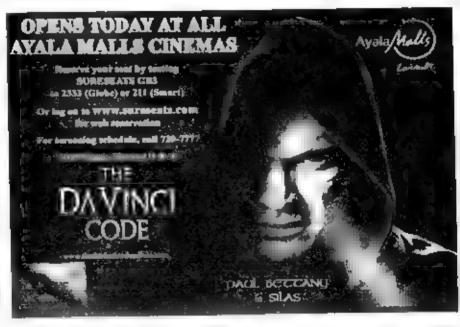
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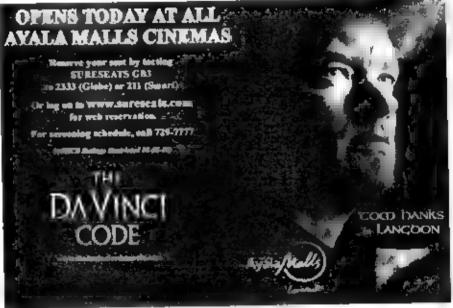
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# What is 'pecha

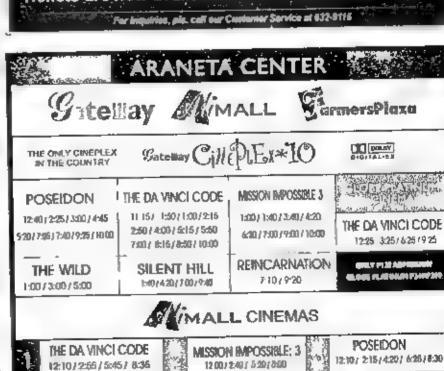
But can romance solve all problems? Counselor doesn't

think so









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#### By Bayani San Diego Jr.

WHAT IS "PECHAYAN?"

That's the term for "flirting" in Lauren Dyogi, director of ABS expressed alarm over the teen tion with romantic affairs "Hope ferent (relationship) dynamics Dyogi said. "We don't want to dw-

According to "Pinoy Big Brothe Randy Dedosa, couplings are in they'd focus more on friendship and a good foundation for roman

Dellosa corrected the impressy Pavawan-booted on Saturday. along with Josqui Mendoza-h house to join his rumored girifra housemate Niña Jose. "She was. son," Dellosa told Inquirer Enter: terview. "Fred sha wanted to stay Meanwhile, there's a budding

Evans and Olyn Membian. Some problems can't be solved Jamuila Obispo, Dellosa noted. f she misses her 11-month-ok needs to be reminded that she's .

her family-to help them financia Speaking of family. Dellosa s.; throws to housemates who con "You may miss your family, but cause they see you on television a

#### Battle of sexes?

Meanwhile, there seems to be the now-famous house on Mothe The boys suffered two losses! were booted, Clare Cabigum and eviction, were saved by text vote On air, Mikee Lee and Matt p

tayo (We're being depleted) " Clare still feels intimidated by Joaqui," Deliosa said. "The guy the girls always thought he was a He said Fred, Joaqu., Glare a

prepared for the worst They knew they were neiples viewers," Deilosa said, "I asked to project if they were evicted. T to remain the same."

On Saturday, two more how house included in the nominees day were Matt, Mikee and Olyn The remaining housemates me

threshed out several .ssues Dellosa surmised that Bam R two weeks ago had "corrected th attitude" and curbed violations

for their regular counseling ses

#### ROUND

#### 'Poseidon': Bottom:

LOS ANGELES-IT WAS BOTTON as the cruise ship disaster remake. Impossible III" from a second wee. fice, according to studio estimates "Mission: Impossible III" clan

milion take during an anemic ? weekend that saw the Tom Criss cent from its opening weekend Internationally, "Mission: 1m

other \$37.3 million to bring so to \$214 million (165.71 million : "Poseidon," which reported v make, debuted in second place as a solid weekend open ng of S.

Estimated ticket sales for line and Canadian theaters, accord : Figual trackers "Mission: Impossible III."

\$20.3M, 3) "RV," \$9 5M, 4) "his-American Haunting," \$3.7ht 6 "Stick It," \$3 2M. 8) "Ice Av-"Silent Hill " \$2.2M 10) "Hi a

#### New 'Prison Break' DALLAS-Fox is bringing its ac

Break" to the Metropiex. The tell day said it will begin film: ig show on June 15 in the Da. "Prison Break," which wor the Award for new drama and + Go

fo tows Michael Scoffeed a pro-Wentworth Mil er, who gets a his out his brother Lincoln Bur tows was framed for murder. The inmates escaped ne. 1 (1)

which was shot around Cha - 4 has a home in Dallas and sad in wide variety of settings were at a

#### Wrong way From page A2-1

vent them from coming into their and appealing young stars. Feedback

#### From Angelo A. Veluz of Que

"Da Vinci Code" movie should be It is an anack on the divinity of Je Church itself. If the movie is a test serves greater strutiny and caution be even more distribute that he ages are more powerful that a des

John Lasseter's latest film. If a long loves, the animated and autotor of the "Toy Story" movies new to naughty race car that gets a lesson of "Cars" is set in a world populate

featuring the voice of Owen Wilson hotsbor rookle race car so can so through life without family and stranded in a sleepy town, where h ing down and reassessing his prior: Hig Brother's house. CBN's reality show, has lousemates' preoccupaally, we'll get to see difin the coming weeks," oil on crushes

r" resident psychologist evitable. "[But] 1 wish which is longer-tasting ac relationships."

on that housemate Fred the third eviction night, id wanted to leave the nd and (earlier) evicted t a strong enough reaninment in a phone in-

in the game " romance between Matt

by romance, though. e not about to quit even son, Miggy. "She only the house precisely for hby "the counselor said.

Id he has a line that he plain of homesickness: hey don't muss you be-

a settle til on sessoon Ignacia Avenue. when Fred and Joaqui Jamilla, nominees for

it it this way "Nauubos

he boys, "She didn't like had accepted him, but rogant."

nd Jamilla had all been because it was up to the

that image they wanted ey al. said they wanted

semates will leave the ust announced last Sun-

t with Dellose last week ion, during which they

mana's forced eviction housemates' rebellious the rules.

### UP:

S UP FOR "POSEIDON," aried to topple "Mission: atop the nation's box ofast weekend.

to No. 1 with a \$24.5 orth America box office action film drop 49 per-

essible HP raked in ano-week earnings overall ros).

ost \$150 million-plus to vith what was described 0.3 million

y through Sunday at US to Exhibitor Relations,

24.5M; 2) "Poseidon," 'Ay Luck," \$5 5M, 5) "An Lnired 93," \$3.6M; 7) tie Meltdown," \$3M; 9) -2 1M

claimed drama "Prison vision network on Mone second season of the

vear's People's Choice den Giobe norunation, on designer played by If janied so he can break Dominic Purcell), who

end of the first season, Producer Garry Brown hose the area because a able.

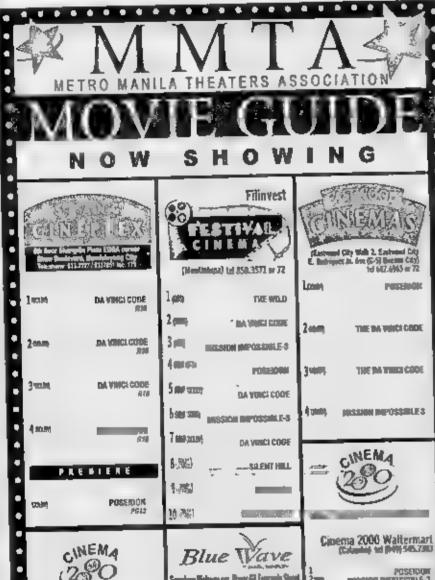
own as genuinely gifted

on City: "I don't think the cated like any other film. us, so it hits the Catholic the book's meent, it de-In fact, the movie could ook, because moving im-

s," combines his two lifenotive worlds. The direcils the animated story of a

n life in the slow tane. d by talking automobiles, vas Lightning McQueen, a nat he thinks he can toll mends. But Lightning is e learns the value of slow-





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THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2006

FEEDBACK

#### Get a life, people

From Hector Garcia (hfg@rocketmail.com), 114 Gloria IV Subd., Tandang Sora, QC

To those who want "The Da Vinci Code" banned in the Philippines: Get a life! You should've asked for the book to be banned in the first place! What?

You thought the book wasn't worth banning because people don't read? They just watch movies and TV? Find something better and more meaningful to do! The movie is based on the book, and the book is FICTION! FICTION! FICTION Nothing in the book or movie will change my faith! After I read and watch, it's over It's entertainment, don't you get it?!



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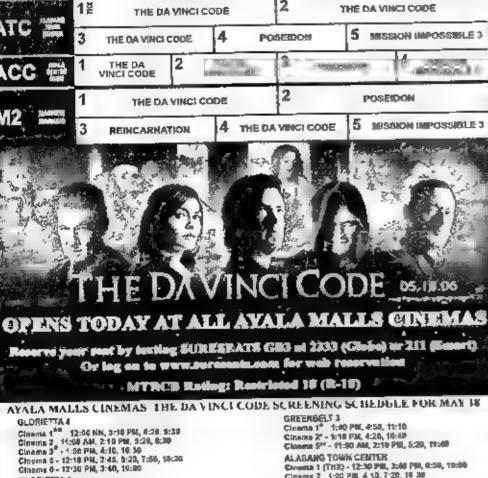








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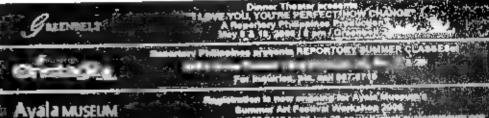
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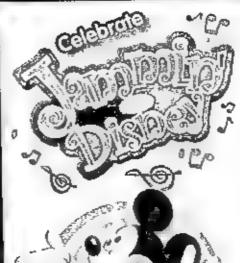
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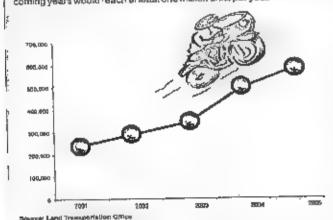
# Gov't orders audit of tax credit certificates



Figures that matter in our nation's Me

#### Demand for motorcycles grows \* (2001-2005)

For the lest five years the sales of motorcycles in the country have been going up. The biggest increase was in 2004 of about 44 percent 495,400 units were sold compared to 343,036 units in the previous year. The local industry forecasts that the demand for motorcycles in the coming years would reach at least one militor units per year.



# BIR blames increased use of TCCs for shortfall

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE HAS ORDERED AN AUDIT OF the volume of tax credit certificates (TCCs) issued by the govern ment and the validity of credits claimed by businesses.

the Bureau of Internal Revenue's huge tax collection shortfall in April was partly due to tions. the substantial increase in the use of TCCs by corporate taxpayers.

We need to know the stock of certificates floating and how this is allocated among taxpayers. We have to improve our database and monitoring system," Finance Secretary garito Teves said in a briefing yesterday

The SIR earlier reported that it collected only P71 3 billion in taxes in April, thus falling short of its P78.6-billion target for the month. The revenue agency said its collection efforts were dampened by the decline in cash

The move was prompted by reports that remittance of income taxes as many companies used TCCs to settle part of their obliga-

income tax collection by the BIR stood at only P48.5 billion, or 15-percent short of the P57.3-bilbon target

Teves said he has directed concerned agencies like the BIR to make an inventory of all TCCs issued in the past to substantiate claims of an increase in tax-credit claims. He added that an inventory would give authorities a full grasp of how much tax credits should really be recognized by the government.

The BIR has also suggested putting a cap on

## Microsoft bullish Gov't privatization chief quits on RP, to open

By Abigail L. Ho

Cebu office

CONTINUING TO POST STRONG GROWTH in the Philippine market, software giant Microsoft Corp. will be opening a Cebu office in June, ats first outside Metro Manila.

The firm's Cebu office would manally have 10-12 employees, Microsoft Philippines managing director Antonio Javier said

It would be headed by Magtanggo. Bawai, previously Microsoft Philippines chief finan-

The new BMW-5 Series. Executive Arrival.

THE KEY PERSON OVERSEEING THE vious stint in the PMO. sale of state-owned assets yesterday tendered his irrevocable and immediate resignation.

Chone Galang, PDI Research

Jose A.R. Bengzon III, the government's chief privatization officer, yesterday said he resigned with the ustention of going back in the private sector and with the benef that he had already served his purpose in the Privatization Management Office (PMO)

Bengzon, who worked in the banking industry for 25 years, said he wanted to work as a mutual fund or securities fund manages, believed to

He worked for the trust and securiues sales department of Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) for moe years until 2004.

Bengzon said he believed he already beloed institute the needed reforms in the PMO and that the government agency could make substantial progress in the privatization program with the reforms in place.

"An important legacy I left behind was the creation of a master list of all the assets," he told the INQUIRER in an interview. He said the PMO has gotten an audir report and inventory of all state-owned assers that the PMO could privatize, including their market value, thus making it easier for the government to go on with its privatization program.

He said he also instituted the creation of committees for various major state assets being privatized to further

boost their chances of being sold. Under his tenure, the biggest government asset sold was the shares in Philippine National Bank, which were sold to the Lucio Tan group for more than P8 billion. Of the amount, 92 billion went to the national government's

TO DEAFORE Currencies PESO-DOLLAR RATE D 52.06 = S As of 5 p.m., May 17, 2006 GOLD: \$715,70-716,20 per ounce Hong Kong, May 7, 2006 Stock Market



#### Shares close higher



SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.14-PERcent higher yesterday, supported bya sharp rise in the budget surplus for April which bolstered confidence

in the country's fiscal position, dealers said. Market reaction, however was relatively muted because investors have already factored to the positive data and remained wary after recent heavy losses in the region, they

The composite index was up 3.38 points at 2,463.57 after trading between 2,455.05 and 2,479.82. Volume reached 3.17 billion shares. 3 worth P1 63 billion.

SHARES/B3

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(As of May 17, 2008)

# BUSINESS

# Meralco gets CPCNs for 11 Metro cities, municipalities

By Ablgail L. Ho

THE ENERGY REGULATORY Commission has made permanent the Manila Electric Co.'s 25year provingnal authority to provide electricity services in 11 cities and municipalities within its franchise area.

In an order dated March 23, the regulatory body gave Meralco certificates of public convenience and necessity (CPCNs) to provide services in Malabon, Manila, Pasay, Mandaluyong, Quezon City, Caloocan, Makati, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Navotas and San Juan.

The CPCNs are valid for 25

provisional authority, or from June 28, 2003, to June 27, 2028.

These allow Meralco to construct, install, operate and mainrain electric services in the 11 Metro Mantia cities and munici-

In handing down the CPCNs, the ERC considered certain indicators from 2002, including the number of power interruptions in the Meralco franchise area, the duration of these interruptions, as well as the distribution utility's investment commitments to improve its service.

According to Meralco docu-

years from the usuance of the ments, which it submitted to the ERC in its application for CPCNs, customers in its franchise area suffered an average of nine interruptions in 2002, with an average duration of 13 hours throughout

> Interruptions lasting sess than five minutes occurred 21 times that year

To improve the reliability and quality of its service, Meralco committed P992 million in investments for its Pasay sector for eight years starting 2003. This amount bankroiled the development and expansion of substa-

It also invested or committed to invest P992 million in Passy, P107.7 million in Mandatuyong, P15.4 mi, lion in Ma.abon, P461.5 million in Manila, P111.9 million in Caloocan, P13.6 million in Navotas, P318.6 million in Parafiaque, P386.6 milion in Quezon City, P160.4 milion in Las Piñas, P692,3 million in Makati, and P7.5 million in San

These investments are all earmarked for the upgrade and expansion of substations in those areas. Some have already been disbursed, while others are still in

# 7-11 operator trims losses to P18.6M

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PHILIPPINE SEVEN CORP., OPerator of the biggest convenience store petwork in the country, trimmed its net losses to P18.6 million in the January-to-March period due to improved revenues from marketing, franchising and interest on invest

PSC operates the chain of 7-11 stores in the country.

in a financial report with the Philippine Stock Exchange, PSC said other income-driven largely by franchise revenues grew 138 percent to P43.3 million in the first quarter

Total revenues from merchanduse sold in the first quarter was slightly higher at P1.09 billion from P1 08 billion in the same pemod last year.

The growth in revenues in the first quarter pales compared with ast year's first-quarter growth of 31 percent. The decline was due to the lower growth in the number of operating stores in the first

Same-store monthly sales also

feil 0.6 percent in the first quarter last year. due to the implementation of the value-added tax, expanded which had affected customers buying power

Commission income amounted to 98 million, 21.3 percent lower compared to same period last year. The decline in commistions was due to the proliferation of retaliers offering similar products.

Operating expenses in the first quarter reached P395 milhon, 6.7 percent higher than the P370 million in the same period

Personnel costs, utilities and rentals were still the major expenses of the company.

In the first quarter, PSC ended with 270 stores, a 7-percent in crease from last year's 253 stores During the quarter, 16 stores were renovated

PSC will open 34 stores in the next few months to complete its target of 50 additional stores this

Franchise stores stood at 98 accounting for 36 percent of total operating stores.



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Gov't orders ...

the amount of tax credits that any corporate texpayer can claim for a given tax period

Merlinda Ordoyo, head of the BIR's Large Taxpayers Service, said the cap could be set at 25 percent of a firm's total tax credits. This means that for any given tax period, a corporate entity can only use 25 percent of its total tax credits as payment for its obligations. But she said the proposed cap-

ping of the use of TCCs still need ed approval by the DOR the BIR's head agency, and the Board of Investments (BOI). TCCs, which can be used to pay

taxes, are instruments issued to companies belonging to industries considered priority by the right of taxpayers," she said.

SECURITEX

2006

From page B1

government, such as the export sector, as a fiscal incentive. These are also issued to firms that have tax refund claumi.

Noticing an increase in tax credit ciaims, Ordoyo said, the BIR was in fact asking some large taxpayers to defer the use of their TCCs because of its adverse impact on tax collection

She said TCCs could be used within five years upon the date of issue, and could be revaudated for another five years upon request

"We were personally asking taxsayers to delay the use of TCCs, but of course we did not have any legal backup to force them to do so because claiming tax credits is a

### Microsoft bullish on RP ...

cial officer and finance manager for the Asia-Pacific region, he said.

He said the decision to open a Cebu office followed the country's consistently good performance compared with other Microsoft anits in the region.

For the company's fiscal 2006, which started July 1, 2005, he noted that the Philippine unit posted an "exceptional" performance, with its Windows business growing more than 10 times faster than the personal computer (PC) shipment rate

Javier said the Philippine arm had become the biggest Microsoft subsidiary in Southeast Asia in terms of revenue, but he declined to

In terms of head count, the local office also grew 80 percent this fiscal year, with Microsoft employees now totaling about 100, he said. Apart from wanting to support its consistent growth in the Philippines, he said the Mi-

in the Visayas and Mindanao markets "The Visayas and Mindanao markets are very important to our business, definitely contributing to the phenomenal growth that we have had in the current year alone," he said

"With the competitive Cebu business cilmate and the many products that Microsoft has and will be releasing in the near future, we thought it best to have a presence to support our customers and partners," he added.

Microsoft currently has around 2,000 partners all over the country, with some of its Microsoft Gold Certified partners based in Cebu.

### Gov't privatization ...

coffers while the remaining P6 billion was the share of Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

Another major asset sold under his tenure was the real property of Manila Gas Corp. which contributed P574 million to the national government. The government was also able to sell some of its real properties in Japan under his leadership.

Other state assets that are in the pipeline of privatization include Al-Amanah Islamic Bank, the former International School property in Makatı City, shares in Maynilad Water Services Corp., and broadcast firms RPN-9 and IBC-13

"It's not easy seriing government assets. One has to be creative to be able to think of ways on how to make the assets attractive to buyers," he admitted, but added that he expected other major masts to be sold within Michelle K Remo

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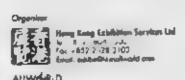
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#### C&P Homes posts 68% profit jump

By Elizabeth L. Sanchex

HOUSING DEVEL-OPER C&P Homes Inc. and it posted a 68percent jump in its first-quarter net income to P37 milhon for P22 million a year ago due to lower

costs.

In a disclosure filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange, C&P Homes said the profit growth was mainly due to the decline in interest expenses to P13 m hon from P21 million last wear.

year
Streamining measures rikewise reduced costs and expenses to P235 million this year from P241 million last year, the company added.

However, net sales were flat at P225 miluon from last year's P227 miluon.

Interest income and miscellaneous income grew 7 percent due to an increase in collectibles from installment contracts, better collection efficiency and higher income from administrative fees

related to housing
C&P Homes recently raised its authorized capital stock
to P7 billion from P5
billion. The new capital consists of 7 billion common shares
with a par value of
P1 The capital buildup forms part of the
housing firms capital
and debt restructuring program

It was also simed at enticing creditors to convert a portion of their claims into

equity.

C&P Homes said it was trying to restructure \$150 million in floating rate notes. Although the basic terms of the plan have been raid out, certain implementing details were still to be con-

firmed and finalized.

C&P Homes said it continued to settle some of its obligations through the saie of real estate properties and certain assets. It has also entered into swapping deals and joint venture arrangements with its business partners to service some operating requirements.

#### Shares ...

From page 61

The broader allshares index was down 1 04 points at 1,526.42.

Advancers led decaners 53 to 48, with 45 stocks un-

changed

The government said the budget surpose grew to P17 6 billion in April from P3.3 billion in the same month last year, thanks to increased revenue collection and reduced expenses. (See Mory on Page A1)

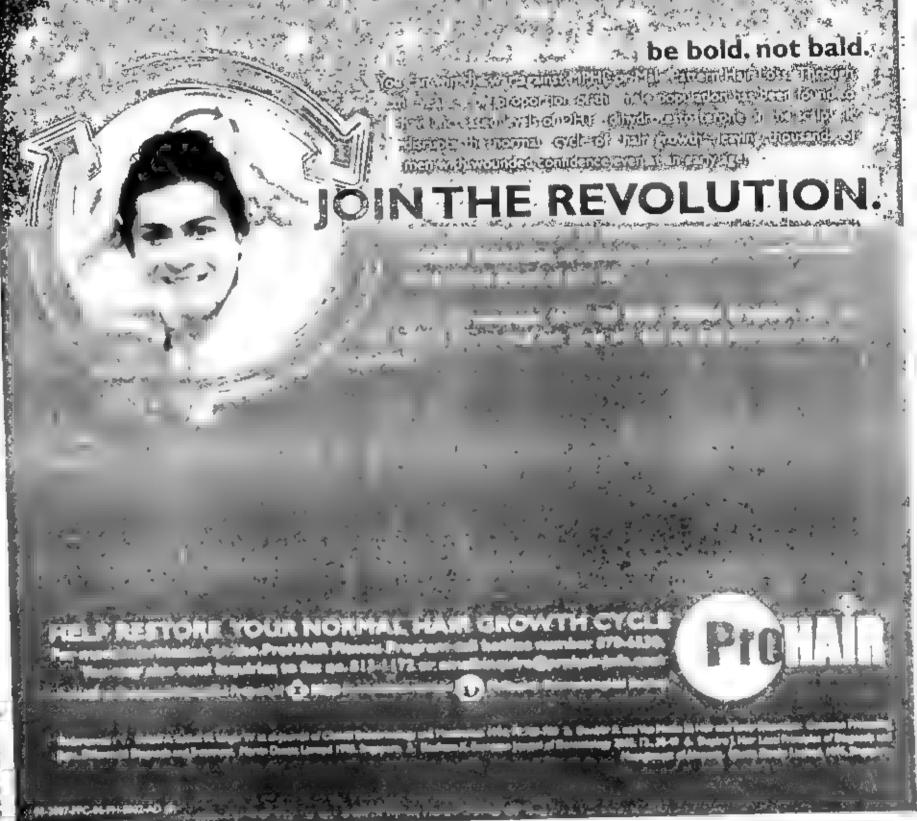
"Psychologically, the positive fiscal numbers have been in the market's performance," said

Harry Liv of Summit Separated Land advanced 50 centavos to P14 75

Land advanced 50 centavos to P14 75 while its parent Ayala Corp. rained P12 50

P10 at P2,100, its





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# alud Oliveros-Lustre

(UP Law Class of 1935 and wife of the late Judge Julian E. Lustre)

Passed on peacefully to eternal life on May 16, 2006 at the age of 94.

Her children, Jose and Delia Melliza (Pong and Del), Alicia (Tita), Aurora and Deogracias Estrelia Jr. (Baby and Bong); her grandchildren, Maridel, Rose, Anne, and Lynne Lustre, Mia and Rico Azicate, Rachel and Jojo Clemente, Macky Estrella, Cookie, and Aldo Gonzales, and her great grandchildren, Samantha, Jessica, and Gabriel, her living sister, brother and in-laws Aurea and Horacio Velazco (Auring and Acio), Angel and Virginia Centeno (Angel and Virgie), thank and request prayers from relatives and many friends who brought her laughter and deep joy, comfort in illness and spiritual resolve, in her long and selfless journey in this life.

Her remains lie at the mortuary of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish Church located at Daily Mirror corner Bulletin St., West Triangle, Quezon City The funeral mass will be held at 10:00 AM on Sunday, May 21, 2006. Cremation will follow at the Loyola Crematorium at 1:00 PM. Interment will take place at the mortuary of the parish church immediately after cremation

> In lieu of flowers, donations to the GAWAD KALINGA school for children will be appreciated.



"There is laid up for me the crown of righteonimess, which the Lord, the rightness Judge, will give me on that Day."

2 Timothy 4:8

# **HUDSON O. CHUA**

(July 11, 1966 - May 13, 2006)

Peacefully joined our Creator on May 13, 2006 at the age of 39.

His mother Chua Shong Hui; loving wife Aurora; children Alec Jayson, Jana Alyson & Kobe Bryson; brothers and sisters, brothers- & sisters-in-law, aunts, nephews, nieces, cousins, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in prayers for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at Superior Chapel, La Funeraria Paz, Inc., G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon

Necrological service will be held on May 19, 2006, Friday, 3:00 p.m. at the chapel.

Interment is on May 20, 2006, Saturday at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City at 9:00 a.m.

My soul, be at rest in God alone from whom comes my hope.\* - Psalm 62:6

# JOSE A. ALARCA

of Tansa, Cavite and Batangas City

Peacefully joined his Creator on Tuesday. 16th of May 2006 at the age of 68.

His beloved wife Lourdes Aquino Alarca, children Rosalind, Jovie and Colet, Grace and Elmer, Vicky Papong and Joanne, grandchildren JB, Josanne, Jianna and Jego; sisters Fely and Enic; brothers and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends request fervent prayers and special petitions for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Mortuary, Basilica of the immaculate Conception, Batangas City

Interment will take place on Saturday, 20 May 2006 following the 1:00 p.m. Holy Mass. Som



passed away in the Grace of our Lard on March 16, 2006 at the age of 82.

His bererved children Noel, Raud & Pita, Aida & Fredd Marism & Alfred, Jojie & Resty, Josi & Arlette, debildren and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies to state at Sta. Rita de Casia Purish. South Lawin Ave., Philace Homes, Queson City.

Cremation will take place on Saturday May 20, 2006 after the 9-00 am Meas at Loyela Crematory, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina

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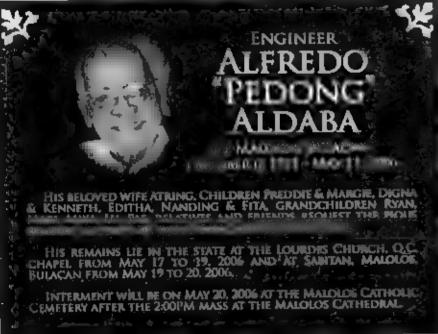
#### NOTICE

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Any person with valid objection's on the above mentioned project may the his/har objection in writing, under eath, with the BCs within three (3) days from the riese of this publication.

(Spd., REDY B. CAÑA Orractor
Project Evaluation and
Registration Department

Professing & Investments Individual Section 1972 Section



Our Dearly Beloved

### CECILIO DOMINGO OBISPO

Now pencefully rests in the infinite Gree and Goodness of the Lord at the age of 72

His wife Rizalina, children Ma. Carmela & Jesus Antonio, Juan Carlos, grandchildren Jeremy Michael, Jessica Marie and Jamie Margaret, Relatives and Friends request the Pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapel O, Guadalupe, Makati City and will be moved to Loyou Memorial Park Marikina, May 20, 2006 at 11:00 am.

Funeral Mass at Loyola Memorial Chapei O, Guadalupe, Idaluati Chy

at 9:00am, May 20, 2006.

### **BUSINESS**

# Agents get together to give kids new lease on life

By Tima Arceo-Dumino

JOHN WAYNE VILLANUEVA looked as healthy as any other seven-year old boy. But unlike his playmates, he tired easily and had difficulty breathing because he had problems with his heart

But thanks to the "Gift of Life" program that financed his heart surgery, he now runs around and plays as hard as his friends.

He is one of the growing number of poor Faipino children touched by the "Gift of Life" program supported by the Western Union Foundation.

These children, most of whom have congenital heart problems, were able to get operated on for free largely due to the combined effort of the four local agents of Western Union.

They raised as much funds as they could to support the surgeries, and every dollar they raised was matched by Western Union Foundation.

In the first collection last December, the agents raised \$62,000 on their own, bringing the first fund to \$124,000, which was enough to cover 62 operations at an average cost of CORPORATE

\$2,000 each. The cost is limited to the medicine and

the diagnostic procedures because ally extend their services for free as part of the "Gift of Life" program.

In caring for these sick children with no hope of raising the money on their own, Petner, FBiz Financial

Gift of Life grants free heart surgery to less fortunate children



GIFT GIVERS, From left: Patricia Riingen of Western Union, GOI, beneficiary Dean Jeremy Tabanero, Western Union marketing manager Chelo Trapaga, and Gift of Life International chair Robert Donno.

Storefront Services are no longer compensors, but firm parmers.

Western Uruon Phinippines country director Patricia Rungen

says it is only in the Phulppines where the different agents work together on common projects.

Aside from the Gift of Life, for the doctors and the hospitals usu- instance, the agents again got together and pledged \$100,000 to help the landslide victims in Guinsaugon, Southern Leyte.

The money will be used to build schools outside the hard-lift

Services, M. Lhuilher and Universal areas to encourage relocation to places in the province that are less prone to deadly landshies.

In other countries, the agents work on their own individual programs, which are nevertheless supported by Western Union Foundation.

#### Beneficiaries

The foundation was attracted to the Gift of Life project first broached by Lorenzo T Ocampo of Petnet because it is not only the child who benefits from the heart surgery, but the family as well.

When a child gets sick, every-

body gets affected," Riingen says. "The parents do not get to work and the expenses for other children are diverted to the sick child."

That is why these operations make a real difference in the lives of the family," Rungen adds.

She adds that there is such a sense of fulfillment when the people involved learn that the operations went on smoothly and that the children were well on their way to recovery

It takes about 30 days for the children to recover fully from their major open-heart surgeries, although they are up and about

way before then with huge smiles on their and their family's faces.

The Rotary Club of Makati West, which started the program, takes rare of screening the candidates for the free medical services.

The children should be certified as having a life threatening sickness and in dire need of financial support for them to qualify for the "Gift of Life" program.

Rüngen says Western Umon in the Philippines is exploring the possibility of tapping the Filipino expatriate community in other countries. such as in Singapore, for funds to ex-pand the "Gift of Life" program.

"Basically, we are looking at how Filipinos abroad would be able to help here and give back to the community," Rungen says. Western Urnon knows its market

abroad untimately since the bulk of its clients are Filipmos working overseas sending part of their money back to their loved ones in the Philippines.

#### Financial literacy

Western Umon estimates that nine of 10 of its transactions involve money coming in to the Philippines, as appeared to going out.

Rüngen says another project a that Western Union is looking to ... support is one involving unproving financial literacy of the OFWs.

This is to make sure that the hardearned money of Filipinos overseas are put to good use in the Philip-

pines, rather than squandered. Western Urson reasizes that it is vital for Pilipinos to be more financially responsible considering that the Philippines is the third biggest receiver of remittances from abroad.

Studies show that as many as 2,700 Filipinos leave to work abroad every day.

Rungen says Western Union . participates in the pre-departure . semmars organized by the government to help give them an idea of what to expect when they start working abroad

While that program is being developed, Western Union in the Philippines looks forward to continue being part of the program to give less fortunate Filipinos a new lease on life.

As Samuel and Elaine, John Wayne's parents, say, they are truly indebted to the G ft of lafe for saving their son s life.

"I hope that they continue with their program so that they can help more people," Samuel says

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# FIGARO IN SHANGHAL For the past year, Figuro Coffee Corp. es been teaching Chinese to

# Banks given more time to clean up Dosri loans

#### By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MONETARY BOARD HAS GIVEN BANKS more time to clean up their portfolio of loans and other credit extended to directors, officers and related interests (Dosri), which are not backed by conateral.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said in a statement yesterday that its policy-making body had approved the extension for another year, or up to April 9, 2007, of the transitory provisions of a two-year old circular that tightened the rules and regulations on Dosti.

Under the transitory provisions, sanctions for noncompliance with the Dosri rules shall not apply to outstanding loans, other credit accommodations and guarantees previously not considered as Dosn accounts for two years.

Banks were also allowed not to deduct unsecured Dosri accounts from their capital accounts for two years.

The transitory provisions would have ex-pired ast Apra 9, but the BSP said the deadine was extended to "provide banks with more time within which to manage their portfolio of secured Dosri loans, other credit accommodations and guarantees."

The General Banking Law of 2000 limits banks' Dosri exposure to an amount equivalent to the borrowers' deposits and book value of their paid-in contribution in the bank.

This is as long as imsecured loans and other Dorri credit accommodations and guarantees do not exceed 15 percent of its total loan portfolio or 100 percent of its net worth, whichev-

Previously, the BSP tightened the Dosri guidelines to curb excessive credit exposure that could migger bank failures.

Specifically, the MB expanded the coverage of Dosri lendings, particularly with regards to "related interests" and likewise imposed stiff sanctions against violators.

One of the sanctions identified by the BSP is the restriction or prohibition on the bank from declaring dividends until the outstanding tonns and other credit accommodations had been reduced within the prescribed cail-

With the righter regulations, the BSP wants big borrowers to instead tap the domestic capital market to secure their funding requirements.



#### Philippine National Bank

#### NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be hald on May 30, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. at the Ballmorn, Upper Lobby. Century Park Hotel, 599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Maiate, Manile.

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- Call to Order
- Secretary's Proof of Notice and Quorum
- Approval of the Minutes of the 2005 Azurual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 24, 2006 Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2005
- Approval of the 2005 Annual Report
- Approval of the Amendment to the Amended By-Laws (transfer of the position, powers and duties of the Chairman of the Board in Sections 6.1 and 5.3, Article VI captioned "Officers" to Section 5.4, Article V captioned "Board of Directors")
- Retification of All Acis, Resolutions and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2005 Annual Stockholders'
- **Election of Directors**
- Appointment of External Auditor Α.
- Other Matters 10.
- Adjournment

Minutes of the 2006 Annual Blockholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors from May 25, 2005 will be evallable for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary.

Only stockholders of record as of May 2, 2005 will be entitled to notice and vote at this meeting. Registration will begin at 6:00 a.m.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a PROXY to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. on May 25, 2006. Any proxies so received will be validated on Mary 26, 2006, 9:30 s.m., at the Office of the Stock Transfer Agent at Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Avenue, Maicati City.

Pasay City, March 24, 2006



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- Interested Bidders may obtain feature Information from PEZA and Inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5::00 p.m. Mondays to Fridays.
- A complete set of Bioting Documents way to planthead by interested Biotins from 11 to 26 histy 2006, 8:00 mm, to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Privings from the address below upon softmentant of a certified copy of a DBM -CEP'S Certification as a registered supplier/contractor and upon payment of a non-reduced that too or the amount of True Thousand Popus Only (PHP 2,000-00). The matrined of payment will be on a cash basis cmy. The Dudding Documents shall be received personally by the prespective British or this authorized representative
- The PEZA sail bold a Pre-Bid Conference quart to all bearested perbes on D1 June 2006 2,00 p.m. at the 6th Picos, Social Hail, PEZA Building III, Foscas Souleward corner Sen ups
- Sitts and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address between the before 11:00 a.m. of 15 June 2006. All Buts must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form GSCS Surely Board in the account of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, comfield check, cashus's check, bank that a wavecastle less of credit in the amount of not less than 1% of the ABC. Late Buts shall not be accepted.
- Bid opening shall be on 15 June 2006 at 200 p.m. at the 6° Floor Social Mail. PEZA Bidg III Roses Bidd corner San June St. Pashy July. Bids will be opened at the prospect of the Bidders' representatives whe chaose to attend.
- In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-weaking behing, it will automotically be reset on the ones working day.
- 10. The PEZA resumes the eight in accept or reject any Out, end to should the bidding process and reject all Bob at any time prior to contract award, without thorsely incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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Making countryantem semmerce possible if a R). RBAP-MABS Sonior MIS Manager Anthony Petalcorin, Microfinance and Synthing Specialist Lyndon Part Screece Enter of Party John Ownes. JSAID Office of Economic Development and Government Head Mobert Wurtz, RBAP president Lyndon Part Screece Enter of Party John Ownes. JSAID Office of Economic Development and Enterprise Institutions Tring Vestions. Head For Government and Financial Institutions Gigl Gayoso Project RBAP consultant Apple Soils, G-Xchange, Inc. President Rixes Maniego-Este, Globo Telecom Moed of Sales and Destribution Joey Mendoza, and RBAP-MAPS MIS Specialist Nixen Medition.

amortizations, G-Xchange Inc. (a whollyowned subsidiary of Globe Telecom) expands its long-randing partnership with the Roral Bankers Association of the tenal merchants. Phaippines (RBAP) and its USAID-

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, RBAF can now even pay their bills, buy and sell transactions - through the convenience member banks can now be accredited as products and services, and perform cash of a sample text recessage while ensuring GCash Palitan Centers. This BSP in or cash-out transactions at a nearby security and reliability," states Eula.

once more! Pollowing the successful banks to facilitate domestic money the other hand, get to numinize costs rollout of Text-A Payment, a proteering transfers and international remuttance and derive additional revenue from mobile micro-finance service that enables transactions through the GCash service. GCash driven payment and remittance the remote payment of monthly loan pintform. This platform also allows them transactions. to accept mobile payments for any GCash pastner institution, such as utility President, Rizza Maniego-Lala, these companies, insurance firms, schools and

supported Microenterprise Access to transactional mobility of GCash make it uplifting the Filipino way of lafe through Banking Services (MASS) Program, with an ideal mobile banking channel for rural empowering in-commerce services. We the implementation of the service's cash banks and their clients. This is particularly are working towards making GCash in and cash-out or Palitan Center convenient for micro and small-scale increase its contribution to the greater transactions in select member banks. entrepreneurs who no longer have to task of netionbuilding by giving the public In a move recently approved by the travel for banking transactions as they greater access to commercial and financial

GCash makes mobile banking history endorsement has enabled partner rural. GCash accredited rural bank. Banks, on

According to G Xchange, Inc. new services offered to Rural Banks in the Philippines are further proof of The real-time capabilities and GCash's steadfast commitment to

### THURSDAY, **BUSINESS** MAY 18, 2006 RP expects upgrade in rating to 'positive'

Government banking on VAT collection

By Doris C. Dumino

THE PHILIPPINES EXPECTS CREDIT RATING agencies to upgrade their sovereign credit rating on the Philippines to "positive" from "stable" by the last quarter of this year or early next year.

A "positive" outlook means that the Philippine government—currently rated at two notches below investment grade by Fach, three notches below by Standard & Poor's and four norches below by Moody's-has a big chance of gesting a credit rating upgrade in two years.

"As long as there's no fiscal slippage, that's the key (to a positive outlook)," Renaro Pizarro, the government's chief investor relations officer, said yesterday after meeting with a visiting mission from \$&P.

"All the indicators that are coming out are positive and there are no controversial assues on the political front," he said.

A savereign credit rating reflects the agencies' view on the ability and willingness of a government

to meet its debt obligations in full and on time.

Pizarro said it was too soon to expect an immediate revision in sovereign credit rating outlook after this particular visit from S&P noting the Philippines would still have to establish a trend of good value added tax collections.

"We have to show more resolve on the fiscal sector," he said.

Asked when the Philippines was likely to see a further improvement in debt rating outlook, Pizarro said. Maybe toward the end of this year or early next year."

He said a revision in the outlook to positive would be inevitable once the government sustains VAT revenue collections for nine months; .

He said this would indicate whether the full year targets would be met.

In the first few months, our deficit numbers, were good. It's a good anchor for saying that probably, we'll be more confident that down the road, we'll meet our fiscal targets. The most critical is the VAT collection," he explained.

# BRBAP

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Kabayan, Bangko Luzon, Bangko Mahmhay, Bank of Florida, have successfully undergone pelor resting, and full rollout is Cantilan Bank, FICO Bank, First Community Bank, First expected upon approval by BSP Macro Bank, 1<sup>st</sup> Valley Bank, Gareway Business Bank, GM

For inquiries on how to become Bank, Greenbank, PRBank, Rang-Ay Bank, Rural Bank of San Enrique, Rural Bank of Abuczy, Rural Bank of Canayan, Rural Bank of Chuabaso, Rural Bank of Jaen, Rural Bank of Victorias, Saranggani Rural Bank, Upland Rural Bank of

RBAP partners can look forward to more GCash

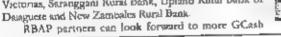
To date, aventy-four prominent RBAP member banks possibilities in the near future, such as remote deposit representing 185 outlets nationwide have been accredited as capability, which allows chems to make deposits to their GCash partners. These mehade Agri-Business Bank, Bangko bank account anyonne, anywhere! Such deposit transactions

> For inquiries on how to become an accardited GCash partner merchant, ancrested rural banks may contact RBAP at (02) 527 2968/72 or send an e-mail to info@ybap.org.

























# 16 Mindanao cities improve service delivery, experts say

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—AT LEAST 16 MINdango cities under the Transparent and Accountable Governance (TAG) project funded by the Asia Foundation and the United States Agency for International Development (US-AID) have reported a significant improvement in their delivery of services.

During the second conference held here last week, officials of the TAG cities said they have recorded a notable improvement in their market and terminal operations, business tax administration, health, and procurement systems.

The TAG project implemented by the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) aims to promote transparency and accountability through reforms in beneficiary-cities

It has been going on for the past seven months in the cities of Zamboanga, Ozamiz, Oroquieta, Malaybalay, Koronadal, Tacurong, General Santos, Surigao, Iligan, Samal, Dapi

tan, Butuan, Dipolog, Panabo, Marawi and Cotabato.

Zamboanga City, for example, posted a 295.03 percent increase in revenues from about P995,000 last year to P29 5 million this year when they implemented reforms.

The procedural reforms undertaken included the reduction in the number of hours for business permuts and licensing processing, introduction of a one-stop shop business processing, printing of procedura, handbooks and "other client-friendly innovations"

Dapitan, which focused on improving its public market and bus terminal, reported a 27

percent increase in revenue collection General Santos, the first of the 16 TAG cities to print a procedural handbook, has reported positive results in its management of the General Santos City Hospital Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau



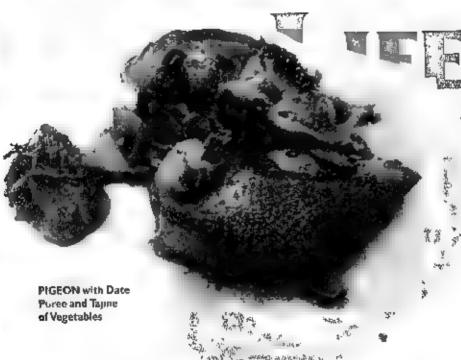
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Cooking is truly about leaving a piece of one's self in his food, the food becoming him and he, his food



Masters serve a symphony of flavors

PLEASE ENLIGHTEN ME, WHAT IS A Micheum star chef?

MARIO. Here, Mario, is Part 2 of the May 11 column

and the answer to your question. The first Michenn Guide was a French guide on cars, car maintenance and places

where those traveling cross-country can dine and lodge. Initially distributed for free, it released its first edition in 1900. The guide was the brainchild of André

Michel n who, together with his brother, later figured out that nothing given free would be taken seriously. So they decided it must be

The 1926 edition started the "stars" rating to indicate which establishments served fine cuisme. The two and three stars were eventually added in 1930. Thus began the by-now-famous red book, actually a change from the

KITCHEN

Reggie Aspiras

origina, bide. Green guides exist as well. but these are mainly in France and its re-

#### Twelve

Today there are 12 guides for hotels and restaurants that cover countries such as Benelux, Italy, Germany, Spe n and Por-Switzerland, tugal, the United Kingdom

Ireland, the and "Main Cities of Europe," and, as of 2006, New York City, as well as a specific guide to France. The Michean guide is an annual publication. To keep its standards, those who review

establishments revisit them every 18 months or so. It uses a three-star system for recommending sights—three is "worth the trip" two, "worth a detour"; one, "interesting " For restaurants, one star is given to "a very

good restaurant in its category," two stars for "excellent cooking, worth a detour" and three stars for "exceptional cusine, worth a special ourney. The guide's gastronomic ratings have be-

come the most famous and influential in the world. They are taken very seriously by chefs. The title/rating is given only to a very select few The addition or loss of a star can mean a difference in sales that run in the millions of

A rated restaurant becomes a food Mecca for gourmands, with reservations made months in advance, if one should even be so lucky to get a booking. Its chef is a culmary demigod.

in the world of haute cursine, and especially to the French, a rating from Michelin or as rival, the equally prestigious Gault Millau, is equivalent to the chef's worth in gold. A loss of a star or, for the Gault Miliau, a point is such a disgrace that, in the case of prominent Prench chef Bernard Loiseau, the master behind the renowned restaurant Côte d'Or in Sauneu in Burgundy, death was a better option Rumors continue to fuel debate if it was the Gault Millau or the Micheum that made him opt to end his life.

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#### **IFESTYLE**

# Linking the regions through food

By Butch Pajarillo Contributor

TT HAS BECOME A SORT OF ICON for Filipino food lovers. And if the top of the hill.

The joint has come a long way enue in Quezon City, Now, eight

influx of old and new patrons in its since founder Gerry Apolinario branches is an indication of suc-opened the first Gerry's Grill cess, Gerry's Grill is definitely on branch on Feb. 14, 1997 on Tomas Morato corner Eugenio Lopez Av-

branches nationwide, Gerry's Grill still pulsates with excitement, as it continues to polish to perfection the art of good

Asked what he thinks of the company's steady success, Gerry's Gril. marketing manager Francis R. Villaluz says he beneves the restaurant is tinking the Philippines through good food

"What we offer is a good crosssection of the best dishes in the Philippines and if (somebody from) one region can appreciate a dish from another region then, in a way, the food has become instrumental in transcending cultural and ethnic boundaries," he says.

Whatever province of the Philippines one comes from food lovers will always find at Gerry's a little bit of home that he or she misses. Aside from its continual quest for excellence, this element might be one of the reasons Gerry's decided to cater to Filipinos abroad. Two branches of the restaurant

are scheduled to open in the United States soon. The first is in San Francisco, tentatively scheduled to be maugurated in December. The second US branch is at Los Angeles, due to open in February next year.

#### Search continues

Stagnancy is a word that does not exist in the Gerry's Grill vocabmary. Villatuz says Apounano is always on the lookout for new ways of improving and expanding their product line, deriving inspirations from his trips all over the Philippines and abroad.

In addition to its original bestsellers such as steeling sisig, beef karekare, crispy pata, inihaw na pusit and lechon kawali, Geny's Grill has started offering a new line of detecrable dishes ake Tahong a a Pobre, Spicy Haif-shelled Mus-sels tossed in garlic and oi-Adobong Puso Rice, rice wrapped in banana leaves mixed with chick en-pork adobo; Baked Scallops, baked half-shelled scallops in a

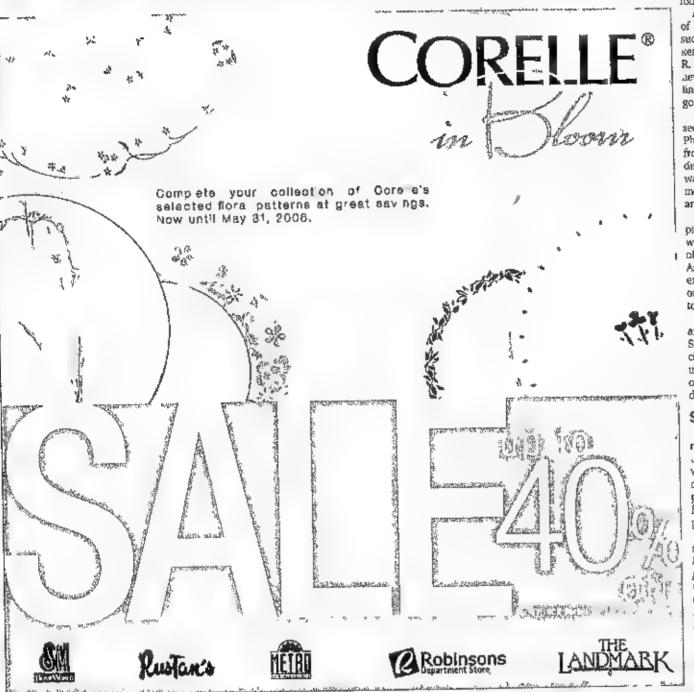
special sauce topped with garlic and melted cheese, Steamed Plapia, pia-pia steamed served with garlie and butter sauce, topped with fresh leeks Bagnet, crispy fried park belly served with fresh onions and tomato salad, fish bagoong on the side, Bagoong Rice, plain boiled rice flavored with local fish bagoong and dried uny shrimps, Crab Rice, boiled rice flavored with fresh crabmeat Veggie Rice, fresh mixed vegetables stirfried with plain boiled rice.

#### High standard

At Gerry's Grill product development is just the beginning of a te-dious process. The chain maintains a very high standard when it comes to the consistency of the taste and flavors of is dishes. It's no easy feat when you're talking about 120 different items.

Next to great food, it is probably the ambiance that continually draws the crowd to Gerry's. The company believes dining must altimately and truly be a relaxing experience. The place is inviting and not at all intimidating-a formula that has worked well for them through the years, with Gerry's going beyond its expected target market of barkados unwinding af ter a hard day's work to families sharing quality time over lunch or

Gerry's Grill's local branches are on Tomas Morato, QC; Bicutan, Parañaque; Alabang, Jupiter Street, Makati, Glorietta Makati, Insular Life Building, Makan, Libis, QC, Blue Wave, Manila, Malate, Manila, Marikna, Subic; Baguto, Lucena; Greenhills, San Juan, Batangas; Pampanga, and Cebu. Call 4211111









SAN FRANCISCO Coffee serves Cup of Excellence awardees



## Award-winning brew

SAN FRANCISCO COFFEE DRAWS FROM ITS 25 years of experience to offer a package of famed coffee and commitment to customer sausfaction that has turned it into one of the leaders mutsifield

San Francisco Coffee serves some of the Cup of Excellence award winning coffee beans, as well as a wide variety of specialty coffees to

suit individual preferences.

Its 25 years of experience in establishing and maintaining clean and well-managed retail ourlets has made it one of the fastest growing companies in Asia. The coffee chain cas opened branches in Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore and Tokyo, aside from Marila.

San Francisco Coffee is now serving the Am-Ited-edition Coffee Colombian roast that has received the Cup of Excellence award

The award selects the pest coffee each season to recognize small farmers for the quality

Philippine franchise holder of San Francisco Coffee is Hot Business Ventures Inc., headed by managing directors Felix and Katrina Limeaoco and operations manager Suzanne Portes

Visit San Francisco Coffee branches at Greenbeit 4, Somerset Olympia along Makati Avenue, Net 1 Building in Fort Bonifacio, Robinson's Ermita, Asian Development Bank Building in Ortigas, and in Libis, Quezon City.



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#### Easy recipes for buffet

REGGIE ASPIRAS IS STARTING HER BUFFET Series featuring easy yet debatous recipes.

The class includes chaffing dish presenta-

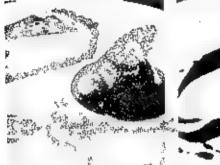
May 19 Pot Roasts, four different recipes (at new)—Classic Pot Roast with Pilaf, Gartic Loaded with Garlic Boursin Creamed Potatoes, Itanan Style with Fresh Pasta with Parmesan and Butter, Orienta, with Noodles

May 20: Fondue in your home plus other Swiss and German favorites-Fondue Cheese & Beef Fondue with Classic Sauces, Radette Buffet, Spareribs and Sauerkraut, Viener Schnutzer with Spaetzer, German Pota to Saiad: Bayanan Cream with Strawberries.

May 22. Gata (all new)—Kare-kare sa Gata with Guisadong Bagoong, Guinataang Ta long, Gumataang Bulak.ak ng Saging, Perfect echon kawali with Gunataang Kalabasa Sauce, Fried Hito with Homemade Baio-Balao, Cassava Bibingka.

May 24 Wasabt-Phyllo Spring Rolls, Tuna Tartar with Wasabi Cream Sauce & Salsa Fresca, Crab Tempura with Caviar Wasabi, Cream Stir-Fried Shrimp in Wasabi Butter, Delicious Angus Roast Beef with Honey Wasabi Crust, Wasabi Fried Rice, Saimon Belly with Sweet Miso Wasabi Sauce, Wasabi Potatoes,

Call 9289296, 9273008 or 6335162



TARTE at Citron



SAUTEED King Scallop

#### Masters serve a symphony . . .

From page CI

A total of 11 stars twinkled in Singapore Of the 11, I had the privilege of twinkling with three, labeled "Iconic Chef" at the World Gournnet Summit, three-star Michelin chef Philippe Legendre of Le Cloq, Four Seasons' Georges V in Paris, and one-star Michelin chef Kevin Thornton of Thornton's Restaurant in Ireland Their restaurants are a must-try, at least once ir your life... . had the chance to attend their workshops, watch them in action, learn from them, as well as feast on their creations.

Legendre's menu-Dublin Bay Prawns with Coriander Pricassee, Old Parmesan Cheese Lasagna, Plgeon with Date Puree and Tajine of Vegetables, Greamy Chocolate Mid-Bitter with Cocoa Sorbet-mirrored his very being. He calls his style typically French but with many influences from places he has been, people who inspire him and ingredients at season's prime-and he brings out the best in them.

The playful and artistic frishman Thornton Whipped up Saureed King Scallop, Sugar Snap Peas, Squid Ink Sauce; Magret of Duck Glazed with Honey and Pistachios, Braised Red Cabbage, Jasm. te Sauce, Tarte au Cirron.

His food was a picture perfect

image of him, his places handpainted with dried fruit and vegetable powders accentifated with gold and silver dust. Thornton's cursine so prominently shows his passions for life, art, photography, for all things whimsical and experanental.

Cooking is truly about leaving a piece of one's self in his food, the food becoming ham and he has food. The master and his work can never be divided, never separated

I recall very few occasions where I actually take bird bites. This time around I caught myself doing just that. I so desired for the dining experience to go on, if I had , my way, forever!

Simply put, dining with such culinary greats is an about the experience, the flavors and the subtle sensations. Their cuisine seems to be lust right all of the time. Not one flavor overpowering the other, not one ingredient out of place, never quite whose without the other

It is a symphony at play, in total unison, creating such mouth-watering moments that I shall carry on in paiatal memory for a life-

with an appetite decadently sausfied I then sat down and hatened to gustatory wisdom.

E-mail the author at raspiras@unquirer.com.ph



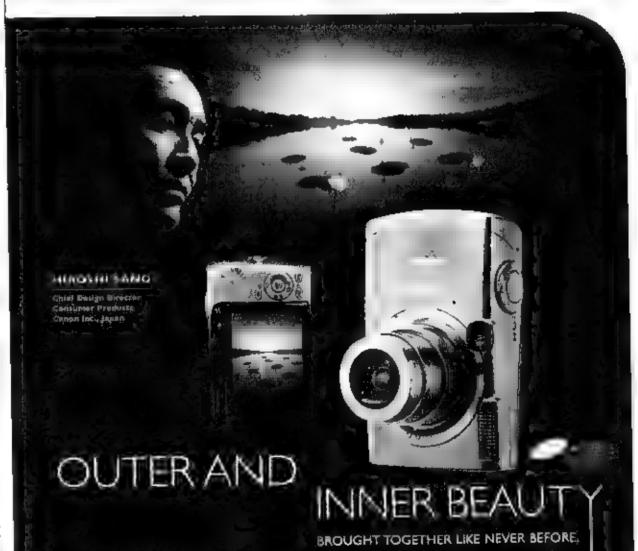


**DUBLIN Bay Prawns with Corlander** Fricassee, Old Parmesan Cheese Lasagna and, at left, Creamy Chocolete Mid-Bitter with Cocca

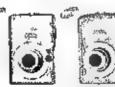
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IFESTYLE

Here are



By Pain Pastor

OR MONTHS, WE WAITED FOR the good things that Greenbelt 3 was cooking up behind its boarded-up wails.

When the boards were taken down and doors were opened, we were treated to a gastronomic feast. From flavorful Phad That and heavenly fish and chips to free chip refills and ice cream customized to suit one's tastes—Greenbeld's Level 3 offered one yummy adventure after another.

We have a wide array of food choices for a totally new and exciting dining expemence With this imique mix, we offer more than the usual. We're confident that our new Level 3 will be a big fut for people who sike to have fun or for those who want to chill out and unwind," said Myrna Fernandez, senior division manager for Ayala

Eight new food outlets, eight new pources of palate pleasers, eight more reasons to go to Greenbelt 3.

Blue Ginger

The food: That street food

Must-order Phad That, Yam Pla-Duk-Foo (Catfish with Green Mango Salad), Khao Kluk Kapi (Shrimp Paste Fried Rice), Po Pia Tod (Spring Rolls), Tom Yang Goong and Khao Niew Mamuang (Sucky Rice with Mangoes)

Bonus: The lighting's good and gives you a warm glow, making Blue Ginger a great place for dates

Go when, you're in the mood for space and when you re craving for Phad That

The food. Seafood, giorious seafood Must-order The Best Fish & Chips in Town We cannot stress that enough The fish and chips. It's perfect—light, crispy and fresh, served on a bed of fries or rice-your choice. Try the Seafood Platter One (a platter of seasonal fish, calamari and tiger prawns), Prawn Trellis and New England Clam Chowder The dessetts are a treat, too-their Warm Chocolate Fudge Cake with Vanilla fee Cream is a big hit.

Bonus: Your server will hand you an Endearmint after the meau-munt candy that they bring in from South Africa

Go when... you're in the mood for seafood and when you want to teach your



**BLUE Ginger's Shrimp Pasta Fried Rice** 

kids the merits of eating fish. Virtual visit: www.fish-co.com

National Sports Grill

The food: American favorites and grilled goodies

Must-order: Top Spin Tenderloin (seasoned tenderioin topped with mushroom gravy sauce served with National rice and com on the cob), Fish N' Mushroom (deepfried fish fillet topped with sauteed mushrooms and melted mozzarelia cheese Served with fruit, corn on the cob and cajun tartar sauce) and the San Francisco Burger (on thin sourdough parmesan bread with lettuce, tomato, pickle chips, cheese, grissed onions and National sauce)

Bonus If you order menu items that come with chips, you get free chip refils. And there's a billiard table just outside



SEAFOOD Platter from Fish & Co.

NSG where you can have fun with your friends while enjoying your drinks.

Go when... you're with friends (the servings are big) and when an exciting game is on so you can enjoy your food among cheering fans.

Virtual visit: www.nsg.ph

Cheesecake, Etc.

The food: Cheesecakes, pasta and candwiches

Must-order Café de Lana, Belgian Double Cream, Mango Passion, Sugar-Free Cappuccino, Sugar-Free Choco Berry, Low-Fat Sugar-Free Lemon

Bonus: There's a wide variety of drinks to choose from, too.

Go when. . you want to have a light men, and when you're in the mood for great desserts.

The food, ice cream from Australia and about 50 fruits, nuts, biscuits and chocolates you can choose from to make your



**HEALTHY** choices from Fuzion

own ice cream concoction.

Must-order: Choco Mint with Brownie, Perrero Rocher with Nutella, Strawberry with Pound Cake Coffee with Tim Tams, Aussie Vanilla with Cookie Dough and Tia Manu with Oreo

Bonus: Watch as your chosen ingredients are mixed into the ice cream flavor of your choice on a slab of cold rock. And yeah, they have low-fat offerings, too.

Go when. . you want a new see cream

expenence Virtual visit: www.coldrock.com.au

Fresh Bar by Big Chill

The food. Fresh fruit shakes and more Must-order Avocado, Banana Mango, Banana Strawberry, Strawberry Mango-they're all good

Bonus: Our favorite fruit shake stop now offers healthy food choices—light pastas, soups, salads and sandwiches

Go when, . you're missing the beach (one sip of their Banana Mango shake and you're transported to Bora) and when you want a healthy meal.

#### Fuzion

The food: Smoothues and more

Must-order Very Berry Good (straw-berries, raspberries, btueberries), What's Up Doc (carrots, oranges, bananas), Fla-Mango (mangoes, peaches, bananas). The Tipsy Smoothies are good too, if you want a buzz. Very Bailey Nice (vodka, pineappie, banana, yogurt and Bailey's), Ind.go Conspiracy (rum, raspberry liquetit, pureapple, yogurt and bluebernes), Pretty



COLD Rock's ICE Cream concections

eight more reasons to go to Greenbelt 3



ONE of the many cheesecales from Cheesacake Etc.

in Pink (rum, raspberry liqueur, raspberries, yogurt and pineapple). The Glazed Salmon Fingers are a big favorite and so are the Carun Smoked Chicken New Engand Crab and Mango Saiad and the crepes.

Bonus: Fuzion's cozy jounge setup will

make you want to stay for hours. Go when you want to kick off your shoes (literally) and unwind with your friends.

Virtual visit: www.fuziorsmoothes.com.

#### **Gonuts Donuts**

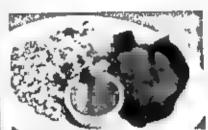
The food: Doruts, doruts and more donuts.

Must-order Amazing Glaze, Chocolate Frost, Pastilias de Leche, Choc-o-Hazeirut Bonus: One, if you're on a diet, try Gonuts Lite-they're sugar-free donuts, believe it or not. Two, you can enjoy them while watching movies at the Greenbelt 3 Cinemas—the store's a short walk from

the ticket booth Go when. you need a sugar fix Virtual visit: www.gonutsdonuts.net

All restaurants are at 3/1, Greenbeit 3, Makati.

E-mail the author at poster@inquires



TOP Spin Tenderloin from National

MIX together sugar, lemon juice and fresh carabao's mile Then, is a large cooking vat (kawa) or deep saucepan, pour the milit-sugar motture.

COOK marture over medium heat, constantly stirring for an hour. Do not leave the mixture unattended because it scorches list.



ALLOW infections to rest and cool Cook for a half hour more or until the mixture forms a solid mass. Remove from fire and transfer to a dry clean bowi to cool.



WHEN mixture is cool, form into balls or logs according to your desired title.

# San Miguel's sweet delight

**Test by Vangie Baga-Reyes** Photos by Roger Carpio

THEY COME BEAUTIFULLY wrapped-first in white paper, then in this and transparent Japanese paper, expertty forded at the ends. Sometimes multicolored cutout wrappers that look like paper saces are used

STEP

This melt-inyour-mouth pastry coated in sugar is soft, creamy, smooth and rich in taste. Made only from fresh

de Leche is simply San Miguel, Bulacan's pride. Pastillas-making has been a cottage industry in San Miguei for something dke 135 years, accord ing to the town's Mayor Edmundo

"Poo" Buencamino, who is on his

carabao's milk and sugar, Pastillas

fust term "San Miguel's pastillas-moking has been handed down from gen erations to generations," he said "It has been the town's source of avenhood, sending to college many students and , financing the building of better homes, and keeping big bakeshops in Manila

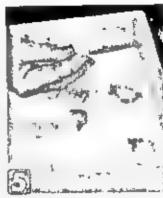
steadily supplied "

The recent first-ever Pastillar Pestivas in the province reassured the townsfolk that their products were well accepted and patron zed not only in the country, but also internationaly, a favorite pasaubong among ba...kbayans Buencamino said San Miguel's

Buston in Huton Paraduse Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada We brought about 17 luggage ful of pastillas and they were all

postillas was well-received when K

was brought to last year's Pistang



ROLL strips on sugar.

sold out," Buencamino proudly reported. In September, San Miguel's partillas will grace the international festival at Los Angeles Convention Center



and cover with Japanese paper.

Secret

The secret to the pastillar is the treshness of the carabao's milk, which is pasteurized immediately



YOU may also transfer mixture inte a plastic contamer.

farmers in Bulacan

Pastillas-making cur be very tedious. "You need to get the freshest milk, cooking over a slow fire and stirring constantly. It takes hours to solidify" Buencamune

Milk and sugar are boiled together until thickened, then cooled and formed by hand into intle mini-logs that are often roiled in more granulated sugar before they are individually packed in paper or cellophane Some commercially made postillos take a "shortcut" by adding condensed milk. Cooking is faster but the remat is extra sweet.

The positios' shelf life is 12:15 days at room temperature and two to three weeks when refriger-

Here, Buencamino demonstrates how to make Pesullas de Leche in large volume.

Ingredients Fresh carabao's milk Granulated white sugar Additional granulated augar for coating.

For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirencom.ph

Lemon juice

#### ice cream and other concoctions



THE NESTLÉ Creamery in Quezon City is an ice cream partor for the whole family and borkada. Its specialties include alltime favorites like Banana Split, Buco Flesta, Macapuno Pandan Medley. It also has ice-cream cakes (Tiramisu, Eskimo Decadence, Banana Split Pie, Mango Ice Cream Pie), and marble slab concoctions (pastry chefs create different types of fillings/custards to make ice cream concuctions creamier). Sundaes, cobblers and parfaits include Citrus Banana Crème Parfait, Eskimo, Vanilla Rocher, UFO, Choco Mint Trifle, Fruity Clear Glass, Cherry Chocolate Parfait, Strawberry Dream Perfait and Mango Berry Coupe. The Nestlé Creamery also serves hot meals. Birthday and special packages are being offered. The Nestlé Crewnery is a joint-venture of Nestlé Corporation and Metro Grind, Call 41 57872/4842.



COOL off with Bizu Patisserie and Bistro's bottomless fruit shakes in watermelen, cantaloupe, mango and dolandan flavors. Get a tail, cold glass for only P185+, refillable with any flavor. Try the new flavors of Bizu's popular Macarons de Paris in cantaloupe, piña colade and pandan and, instead of the usual chocolate éclair, have freshly baked éciairs with tart lemon or sweet vanika pastry cream filling, Bizu Patisserie and Bistro are at G/F, Greenbelt 2; 3/F, Glortetta 4, Ayala Center, Makati, The Promenade, Greenhills; and G/F, Corte Delas Palmas, Alabang Town Center. Call 757B!ZU (2498) or 8126451. Visit www.bizupatisserie.com



#### SAMALAMIG

Dencio's offers Samalamig concections for the hot season—Halo-halo in regular and miniportions, Ginumis, Sago't Gulaman, Mais con Hielo and Buko Pandan Dendo's Halo-halo contams saha, ube, langka, beans and rice crispees laced with milk and topped with crushed ice and leche flon. Dencio's has outlets in Rockwell, Metrowalk, Eastwood, Luisita Center, Scout Albano, Subic, Brittany Bay, CCP Complex, Araneta Center, Banawe, Camp John Hay, Cansubang, Capitol Hills, Jupiter, Las Piñas, Paseo Center, Robinsons Ermita, SM Megamall, Paseo de Magallanes and SM Baguio.

#### Dimsum class May 30

LEARN TO MAKE YOUR FAVORITE dim sum at San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center's special cooking class, "Ail About Dunsum," 1:30-

'4.30 p.m., May 30.
The class will be handled by top chefs from Suzhou Dimsum Restaurant and will cover tems from Ahl Pan Siopeo to other popular d m sum.

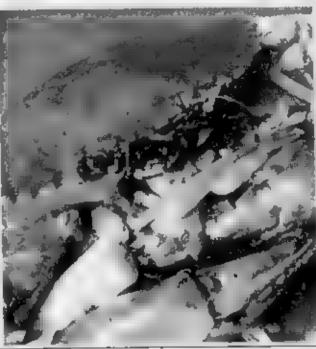
Registration fee is P800. A 20-percent discount will be given to members of My Great Food Club. Visit www.mygreatfoodclub.com or call 67, 9876, ioc. 402, 403 or 405.

# Healthy food cafe

CROWNE Plaza's XIn Tien OI pre-sents "Lobster Rocks" by master chef Sam Lee, until May 31 The "Seven Corner's Champagne and Sparkles," champagne and sparkling wines at 25-percent discount as a perfect accompaniment to the international brunch buffet every Sunday of May, 11 a.m. -2:30 p.m. Call 6337222 log. 7240 and

DI' MARK'S offers Pizza Pro. topped with enchovies, mushrooms and papparent and the Mad Scrambie Pizza with Italian sausages, pepperoni, mushrooms, green peppera, oniona, garllo, chicken and tomatoes DI Mark's pizzas are complemented with appetizers, soups, pastas, main dishes and desserts. Di' Mark's branches are located at the 3/L, Greenbelt 3, Tomas Morato, The Wack-Wack and Commonwealth. Call 5255354 oz

T.G.I FRIDAY'S recently launched a medley of rib platters. Start off with Friday's full-flavored pork ribs served with portdoln chops called the Ribs Platter and Pork Chop Then there's the Ribs Platter and NY Steak served with choice aged beef. the Friday's Ribs Platter and Chick en, a combination of tender pork ribs and juicy chicken. Try the Ribs Platter and Shrimp and delight in the soft pork ribs goodness combined with succulent shrimp skewers. Each of these new rib platters are spice seasoned and marinated with signature home-grown flavors. basted with Friday's very own Jack Daniel's glaze and served with fresh grilled corn on the cob. The Friday's Rib Platters are available until June 30 at T.G.I. Friday's branches in Glorietta 3. Makati; Robinsons Place Manila, Hotel Rembrandt in Tomas Morato, Quezon City; Alabang Town Center, and Sta. Lucia East.



CRUSTASIA'S Emperors' Buffet offers Szechuan Crab and seafood selections. Crustasia is at 3/f. Podium, 18 ADB Avenue. Ortigas Center; and at G/L, flockwell Power Plant Mall, Makati City. Call 7285463 and 6313857.

# AUSTRALIA

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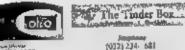


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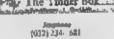
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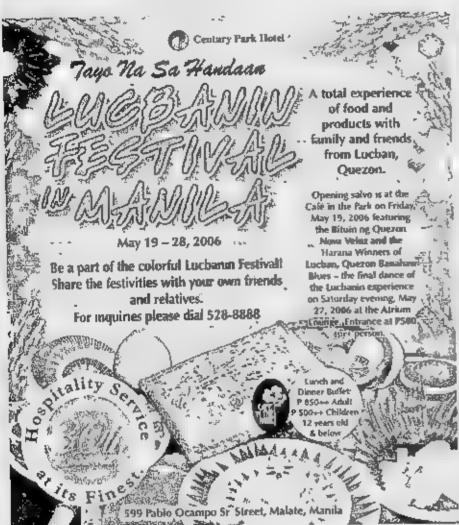
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Crabs and Rib Fingers, Crab Maritess, grilled US rib fingers, garlic pasta sauteed vegetables; and Hawaiian Prawns and Rib Fingers, grilled prawns and pineapple kebab with grilled rib fingers potato salad, sautéed vegetables. Every order comes with a free stuffed toy. Red Crab branches are at 536 Remedios St., Malate: 104 Tomas Morato, QC; 2/f. Corte de las Palmas, Alabang Town Center, and G/F, Shangri-La Mall. Ortigas, Call 4009980.

CHAIKOFI, A TEA. COFFEE AND FOOD specialty store and café, opens at the Mall of Asia. Offering a healthy line of drinks and dishes, it will serve 16 "Iruiteas" with green tea polyphenois, an-

and hasten the aging process.

topidants that reputed-**DINING OUT** ty help the body dear with oxygen-free radicals, which can cause certain diseases

Teas use as sweetener an extract from the stevia herb from Paraguay that is supposed to be high in energy. The caté will also serve a variety of snacks

and light meals. Gift packs of Chaikofi tea and coffee products will also be avanable. Visit www.chaikofi.com

THE BICKMONDE Grill worch buffet

spread features all-time Flipho favortes such as Adobo Lumpia and Sinigang as well as Inasal, Binakol and Kinilaw (Visayas); Lomo. Bagnet and Pinakbet (flocos): Chicken Revenu and Pork Estolado (Bulacan). Pinagat. Laing and Bicol Express (Bico.) Desserts include Pastillas Guinalaan Bibingka and Halo-Halo. Available every Sunday until Friday, 11 30 a m -2 p.m. at P585+ A la carte menu is also

available all day, evary day Executive chef Ed Sanlos creates Grined Chicken and Prawns in Spicy Coconut Milk to comptement the Grill's ava carte menu choices this month. The chef's recommendation is part of the Richmonde Gri 's allday dining menu, ava labia 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Cali 6387777 toc. 3409 ar 8898419

HOUDAY Inn Galleria Manila will feature are of the world's most expticiou sines Moroccan alongside the international butfet selections a Raphael Café, 12 noon-2 30 p.m. daily Dishes include couscous, plumped semolina o ains, bisteeya a three-layer pie wrapped in the thinnest of pastry. mechaul tender reasted lamb; and djej emshmel, roast ad phicken with a wes and femor. Enjoy the Mystic Morocca buftet at P600+ per person Forreservations call 6337111 ioc. 7416

MAKATI Shangri-La presents the Dragon Boa, Festival May 25-June 11 Chef Tsang will prepare traditionat deficacies like Gou Cheng Chong and the sweet Kan Shi-Chang Indu gain gulinary master: pieces at Shano Palace with a number of a la carte dishes. Call 8138888 8137588 8137599.

CENTURY Park Hotel s Café in the Park serves lamily unch or dinner buffet for P895 per adult and P500 for children 4-12 years old. At Unsu Japanese Restaurant, a meal is available for P1 200. Ca 5285827/29 or e-mail loocbev@canturypark com ph

THE MANILA Pavilion Hotel's Rousseria offers he tollowing dishes Pan Seared Sea Scallops and Rosemary Skewers; Pumpkin Cream with Apple Smoked Bacon Bits, One Side Grided Tunta and Olivo Tapenade Feltuccini. Baked Lamb Loin "Parmentier" with Gri jed Vagatables or Pan Ross, Prawns on Mustiroom Ha inette with French Goal Chaese; Crispy Tropicar Fruit Tart and White Choco ale Ice cream, priced at P1.850+ per person. Call 5261212 rdc

HEALTHY/CS



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while compared in the later of the same of the same was be said. In the

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# Iloilo cooking by a young chef

While confident of her Continental cuisine know-how, she had to study the food of her province to do it correctly



PAULINE GORRICETA-BASUsing was in her white chef's uniform as she weicomed guests to the opening of "Manamit'," the flonggo food festival at the Mandarin Onental Marula A young Filipino chef cooking her hometown cuisine? Years ago, it would have been unakely.

Aspiling chefs mostly study Contineria cu sine even other Asian cooking but never our own

Pau ne herself is an example attending the best achoois—Calliany Institute of America, New School of New York and the Institute of Gulipary Education (formerly Perer Kumps) Leaning toward Italian cooking, she opened A. Dente Ristorante Italiano in Iloilo. She also manages a seafood restaurant, a bistro and a catering service in the

But while confident of her Continental custine know-how, she felt she had to study the food of her province just to be sure she would do it correctly for this festival. Her mother, a veteran of the restaurant business (managing fast-food joints called Try Me), taught her how to go about it.

#### Learning from masters

The advice was to learn from the masters. For batchoy, it was the old man (she doesn't know his name) who prepared the dish daily at Deco. She went to the market at four in the murning. Deco is one of the stalls famous for the signature Lone soup dish with slices of pork and mnards nnuith in nood es. She was told to ask the man casually about the process, for what commercial cook would give out secrets?

Paul he says among the casually she ed secrets is using Marca Paing. a monosodium glutamate. MSG sold at the La Española grocery. She mentions the places as if I know them. But yes, I had been to floilo and had eaten at Deco and Ted's, premier batchoy providers. I will get to that grocery some day. As the hotel would not let her use MSG, she said they made good beef stock.

The other secret to the batchoy is gumamos (fermented fish) in a kotsa bag swirled about to give added fla-

From the barchay table, we rook a tour of the tood as she annotated it

COUNTRY Micky Fenix

was an insight as well on botel requi rements in presenting socal cook

She pointed out the pinama/han. fish cocked in vinegar and tomatoes. the to to paks will resupposed to be borigus she said but the hote wint ed it done with saimon. Mist have something to do with the bones.

We aughed at how the expat chefs. were surprised that she cooked the linusgusan na lukan (steamed prawns) in 7-Up. They do have to learn that the "uncois" does make whatever you cook with it (shrimps, mussels, barbecue) sweeter.

A big steamer contained fresh oysters. Pauline says oysters are steamed rather than boiled in Ilotlo. There were fresh scallops as well. Her food styling lessons came to the fore as she added green mango shreds on top to dress up this essennaily plain but really wonderful

When we talked of adobo, she included a cooking lesson to point out how different they did it in floilo. It starts with sauteing garlic, onion and meat. Next, bay leaf, peppercorn, echaete for count, and, most important, sinamak, the local vinegas, are adited. A lie sugar tempers the innegar and his shes theid shi

Sindmuk is an integral part of ear ing a liono. Aside from flavoring food in the cooking if a must dip that chicken hoso (coa. roasted can't do without. This coconut vine gar is mixed in with garlic, siling labuyo, peppercorn and langkawas (ginger, galangal) that is so potent in both flavor and smell that it isn't allowed aboard an airplane. A huge sign at the floilo aisport says so.

the trair-om, chicken wrapped in baname leaves then steamed in its own junce. The traditional way of cooking is inside a big bamboo stala making sure he banana leaf is ned rightly so

the laces don't escape. She showed diners the old way by food04@yahoo com

placing a sample beside the chaffing dish containing the tinu om. When she was testing this dish, some told her to add more flavors or to make it soupier But the relied on the version. of a farmer who worked for her fa-

#### In demand

The dish that couldn't be replenished fast enough was the grilled managar It's a mangrove fish a jack anapper. The brack shiwater explains its de clous flavor and rexture--soft, woule and farty fiesh.

The foods on the appetizer buffer were really menerida. There were popara jempanada, of mongo sprouts and lumping abod. Crispy crablets were present probably because they are so identified with honggo cook

Finally the dessert table. It had the most interesting offerings even if you didn't have a sweet tooth. Pauline pointed to the borbor pripig cooked in coconut milk, which she said she learned from specialists in Boilo. She promised she wouldn't cook it for business

It was wonderful to see and ent once more the papaya candy, thin alices of green papaya processed in sugar then formed into petals with creamy yeared in them. Pauline said the candy was from Passi, Iloilo, that had many sugar mills. Hence, many aweets were invented there

There were colorful bocayo (candied coconut strips) and small be burgka pieces that contained strips of young coconut. Being passed around on the first day was a basker filled with pieces of burrerscotch, yemes and empanaditas. A asse of each led

to a second helping to take home Every day, Pa he works the room many guests are friends from to lege and some 1.01 ggos who have settled here. Anyone who goes to the Capra n's Bar is invited to sample Hojla rocking

She smiled as she related how a group of Swedes finished off their bowl of batchoy But a Filipino with a foreign guest opted for Continental food. Sad, Pauline said, how our own people would not even try the food

Manamitt Bogo Pood Festival is on every hunch until May 19 at the Capradn's Bar, Mandarin Oriental Manifa, Makan Geu

Email the author at pinoy-

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EAGLE WINGS STAINLESS STEEL FABRICATED KITCHENS

BY JESS ABRERA

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#### FOXTROT



MOM WON'T LET ME PLAY ANY MORE "WORLD OF WARQUEST" UNTIL THE SCHOOL YEAR'S OVER. ጥ





BY BILLAMEND A. LIPIN



#### MARVIN



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**PUGAD BABOY** 



#### TANK INSEL







MUTTS

DIVINE COMEDY

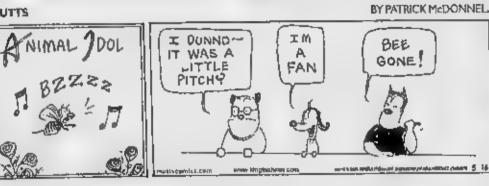
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#### ATOMO AND WEBOY



#### HOROSCOPE BY FRANCIS DRAKE

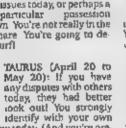
YOU BORN TODAY: You're conscientious, reliable and serious about what you do. You're trad floral, yet you have modern, cutting edge ideas. Justice matters to you. You're idealistic, yet practice), You like to share your opinions. You're loyal to family, and in your later years, you're keen to establish a secure base for your loved ones. Work hard to build or construct something Birthdate of: John Paul II, religious leader, Perry Como, crooner; Chow Yun-Par, actor



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You feel pas-sionately about money usues today, or perhaps a

particular pussession that you own You're not really in the mood to share You're going to de-fend your turfl

point of view today. (And you're prepared to let anyone else know.)



GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your ability to research or ferret out enswers to questions is wonderful today. There is nothing that is too much trouble

You will pick up every rock and look under it



believe, but do it graciously.



CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Conversations with friends or perhaps members of groups are very heated and intense roday People (including

you) are discussing usues that they



1.EO (July 23 to Aug.
22): Be dipiomatic with bosses and parents to day. You identify so atrongly with your ideas that you might appear threatening to others! It's OK to believe what you

Since most people were not rea-soned into their behels, they connot





BUNSOY, KUNG IKAW,

KAN NA, MAY BASURA SA AND ANG GAGANIN TAPAT NAMIN PINULOT KO Mo2 TULAD MO



BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



#### BEN



#### Daily Crossword

#### **ACROSS**

- Indonestari
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- 10 High cards 14 Lena of Allas'
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- DOWN

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By Alan P. Clack

Huntington Beech, CA

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- 58 Box-score bnell 60 Forage crop 61 Wolfish look 62 Latin being 85 Hawler's stat

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Heared arguments about politics or religion are possible to-day. That's because peo-

day. That's because peo-ple identify with their beliefs. (Note be reasoned out of them )

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22). You have the mind of a sleuth today. Because you're thinking the an investigator, you will probably team how much monsomebody else makes. (Perhaps ey somebody else makes. (Pern this person is quite close to you )



SCORPIO (Oct 23 to Nov. 21) Conversations with partners and close friends are quite intense oday. Don't ist others coerce you into agreeing with them (And don't coerce them into agreeing with you.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21). Coworkers are ready to listen to your suggestions at work today. Don't be afraid to speak up. If you have a bright idea, share it with oth-



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Family discussions (probably involving a parent) are lively today. You deligitely have something to say. Speak your mass, and lister to obs. Speak your place, and listen to oth-

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Do not run roughshod over other people's ideas, especially during discussions with resultes and siblings. (Speak ing louder will not help people hear

you any better.)

#### KIKO MACHINE

hay FEELING KO TALAGA E LAHAT NG MGA HUHAHARAP HATUU JIGADON E PRGHAHANDA SA MAS MALALAKI PA NARNIG HANARAPIN NAKS INDE TULAD KO AWKWARP SO'KU YUNG SK'N CONTACT MINISAN TALAGA SA STRANCERS





MAS BI-YOUR FACE NA PAGSUBOK SA BURAS

PERO TILA PAGHAHAMDA ASLA YUU SA

BY MANIX ABRERA

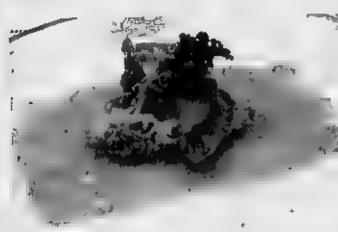
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#### TULDOK

BY PAPL AND TATUM MILAMBILING





TEA-CURED salmon with pickled ginger and eschallot (green onion)

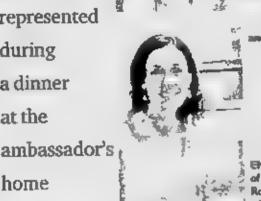
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EMMA O'Rellh of Swings and Roundabouts



ALISTRALIAN Ambassador Tony Hely, with senior trade commissioner Alan Morrel, the ambassador's wife Wendy Jeffory and Mike Edwards of Edwards Wines, welcomes guests.

#### By Michaela Fenot

WINES. ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY are good, make for livelier company.

And so the small dunner party at the residence of the Australian ambassador Tony Hely, hosted by Alan Morres, senior trade commissioner, had the walls resounding with talk and laughter from the moment cockrails were served.

The wines featured that evening were from Western Australia, m the favored area known as Maryaret River, Perth, the capital, should be mentioned to give some geographic perspective.

Emma O'Reilly represented a winery with the playful name of Swings and Roundabouts. The name STRAWBERRY contrasts with the forma, winery names

of the Old World (read French and Mike Edwards represented his com-

pany, Edwards Wines, where he is not only owner but also winemaker

As their wines are available socally at the Wine Depot

We were all greeted with a cool light. Semilion Sauvignon Blanc '05 from Swings and Roundabouts That was served with a duck and chicken iver parfait with a covering of port wine jelly, both complementing each other.

That was the first offering from chefs Carios and Anton Miguel, two old hands at blending food with wine The Miguel brothers studied cushary arts in

Australia but have since sessled in their home country to cook for small parties.

Before dinner was served, a bit of enterrainment involved the didgendoo played by a foremost musical artist, Troy Bennell. The traditional musica. instrument, made from the bark of a tree and decorated with abortgma, art, was able to approximate any sound or tone Bennell wanted.

After setting the Australian mood with didgendoo music and some works of Australian artists around the cocktail area. amuse bouche of lobster torteilint was served. Appetizer was teacured salmon with pick led ginger and eschauot

(green omon) dressing. A more full-bodied Edwards Sauvignon Blanc '05 was paired with the salmon. According to Edwards, sauvignon blanc is the new chardonnay. The winemaker says the grapes for this wine shouldn't be too ripe.

A fish dish came next, berramunds with green harrssa and a coriander salad. k was paired with, from Swings and Roundabouts, Kiss Chasey Chardonnay Semuon Sauvignon Bianc '05. Kess Chasey, it was explained, was a children's game. The combination of three grape vanetals made the name long but produced a citrus apple flavor

O'Reilly says there is just a bit of chardonnay to this mix and the blending of semilion and saurignon blank is characteristic of Margaret River wines.

Braised jamb shank with minted pea risotto was not as heavy as one thought it would be. Maybe the wine, an Edwards Cabernet Sauvignon '04, helped. It was elegant and quite delicate rather

As is their style, the Miguel brothers informed diners about every course. They said the strawberry and mastarpone Paylova was straight from the recipe book because it never failed them. It was a great dessert to finish

The evening was an experience in the art of good oving, indeed Cuanary, winemaking, visua, and musical arts

our cabernet survignon, as well.

were web-represented.

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#### RECREATIONAL AND ONE-DAY BUSINESS CLASS

#### **BAKING CLASSES**

May 18, Therefor, CHEESECARE, Octoobus sheews the front Postry Chef Instructor. The filament ferrers will be demonstrated in this class. The cripes are Cheesecake marfait a risk Sugar Cheesecake light Theesecake Mochin & Checose hip Cheesecake Caramic Proton Theesecake and Rich Oren Cheesecake. Recipes include all signedients for P1,800.08 from 400 p.m. NEW CLASS.

Hen 22. Henrich THE OLICITE CLASS. Pastry Chef I testructive Chef Tannah kertem will be elementariting lavae, more dough making this Outribe class. The ecopes are quiche con nine Brie and Third Quiche numeritaries many and em Quiche Konstea Re. Peoper Quiche and Smeked Salanou Quiche for P° 500.00 including all argumentaries from 0.00 4.00 pm. NEW CLASS.

Mar 24, Perforeder, RIDS IN THE ATTCHEN A. The lass of Chef Ana's Kids in the Kutchen series, the neuper are traced if sees Museum Chicken, Baked casagina, Apple Cookies and Dieo Cheesecake for P. 300.00 from 1. 06. 2:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

Ner M. Turvebry - E.45(C BREAD MAKENS. Master Baker from Australia Mike Resister will teach yets the secrets of sage endother admaking for Afric stead from De Safe filters Roths and European Breast Roths. One on ode instruction Recipes methods all angredients. P. 500:00 trum. 0.00 - 4:00 n.m.

Mar 11. Problement <u>ADMANCED BRE 40 MARING</u> Master Baker from Australia Mike Rossiler teaches you the secrets of success thind to admaking the Post Haguaria English Brown Bread of minimum Parint Bread, Waltum & Subario Bread, One on one instruction. Recopes include all night chemis. PE 500.00 from 10:00 4:00 p.m.

January Charactery Chorses And Annual Pastry States States States States Australia Make Resister teaches you the series of a secretary observable and members of a secretary observable and members of annual Pastry observables. Receptor include all depredients 91 500.00 from 10:00 4:00 pm 58.50 CLASS

Inne #1\_Friday CHOCOL 474; TEMPEATIONS. They class is a most for anyone with a revision to create a thirzhing how said devicers one record Chong Up a Bidemonstrate a cortexy of specialists the hought Chocolate Roan Calle Factors. They have said Chocolate Pearint Butter Conte and Gruham Chocolate Randade for P1,500.00 excluding all mensuscents from 100 a 20 p. its

#### COOKING CLASSES

Mer 15, Wender A TASTE OF LIFETA 451.2. A new set of recepts from our Vietnamere Clief Chef Annue De Lentos kill be demonstrated in the class. The cortes are the Normal Not one unrey Boof with Vegetahies and Rice Paper has cross as map if red Spring Rolf con Tim No Sygnobic Savati Suong Suong on Itell Sparender date the cort fluit Noong Fresh Norodies with Spring Rolf and Barbeque under two Po Sarth cort Red Beans with Cooping Milk, sw. Pt 300 til) incleading all ingredients from 1:00-3:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

Her FR. The party PASTAIN A FL-15H 2. Another 8 quick, casy and delightful pasts recipes in one shart period. Recipes suchake Paceni with Cambuseula Sauce, Reasted Water Gargouzola Sauce. Furthe Secreted Laver Sauce. Scaloul with Hazebout Planter Sauce, Scaloul and Shring Saffron Sauce, Control Sauce, Control Sauce, Secreted Planter Sauce, Scaloul and Shring Saffron Sauce, Chorvo and Checken format Cream. Mushroom Pancetts in Observe od., Chacken and Shring Pesso are recipes from Chef Gioo. For F1,300.00 optioning all imprehense from 1:00 a :00 p.m.

Her 21. Secular - LAP ASSE NODDES AND RICE TOPPINGS. Chell Haron's Opino will be leaching as new set of recepts from the foundation, the recepts dictade Green For Toda Menene. Mix Tempora action (Tempora) Rice Topping, Tempora acto the Backwheat Noodles at the Tempora), Zaru Soba (Cold Backwheat Noodles), Nobeyak, Adam Noodles at the Per and cymbat (Heef Hors I) from \$100 - 100 p.m. for P. 200.00 NSN CLASS.

May 23, The slage PIZZA E PASTA NORESHOP. Cafe Yashel Chef. Chef Tone Erfe will be teaching us have provided from and dough with sources that can be used on pasta and on pasta at the same time. Recipes methode Sattinges and characterized Ch

May 25, Smaller EAMER AND PARTITABLE DELIGITS 3. Sequel to Chef Lawrenee's family not party table deligibles. I here's smaller yet of recipes that every one will calculy to condition whole family. Recipes are Whole Lapur legist with Sence Chantelly. Roses Chacters with Colory and Ham Staffing, Roses Chapter by Park Rabs with Aprices and Pench Sence. However Salard with Red Raspherry Decising. Baked Staffed Musbrooms, Pasta Negra with Baby Squared Apple Crumble with Baster Velocite and Vanilla Lee Crown for P. 200.00 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

June 91. Smoother DELECTOR'S & HEALTHY SNACKS. Delicious and healthy stancks will be demonstrated by our Pastry Chaff transland Herrors for us to easy) and learn. The recipes are Whole Wheat Crackers. White Salatine Crackers and Whole Healthy Crackers, Smoothed Salatine Pane, Mushroom Price, Basel pesso and Tomato-Basel Taperade for P1.300.00 from: 0.00-3.00 pcm. NEW CLASS.

June 25. Monday - A TATTE OF FIETNAM 3. Once again, new dishes from Chef Anne De Lemos will be beneatstated a flow class. The recipes are Ca Lon Hap (Steamed Staffed Madfish with Vegetables and Rice Paper), how can Name — not bloodles with Spring Roll. Count Ches. Tom (Victnamese Sour Scarp with Shrimps and "Imporphes, los Xan Cung (Checken Sausced with Ginger), Got Co Hu Dun (Unod Saind) and Clevol Noung. Grilled Banana with Cocona Mik) for P1300.03 from 11:00 - 3:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

June 16. Incident CATERIA'S AND EATERTAINING SPECIALS. Let Theil Gino beach you recipes and costings have a seen for "and ring events and pursues. Recipes include Waldon Saran Micros Municipion Primesan Protein Sanate Crequettes with looky Musicial and Salver, applicant with claps. Buetre Blanc, Pork Roma Stoffed with Pain Wite Gravy and Mango Crepe Suspination P2.000 Outroom 10:00, 4,00 p.m. June 47, Windowskie SALAD AND SALAD DRESSIVES. Easy to propore Salad peripes from our Cake-Decorator and Transco in Cake-Anton Balad, Control Rain and Anton And Line and Cake-And Tonkey and Posta Salad, Control Rain and Cake-And Line and Cake-And Cake-And

Page 45. There has CATERING AND ENTERTAINING SPECIALS 1. Once again, Chef Guo will teach you make accepts that's good for Catering events and parties. Recopes include tampe. Office and Anchory Sahat, Moet Lesugan, sealous Meoriters Branch in Sance Nantus: Gate's Baby Back Russ, Potanges Deophinouse and Doine Tostada for P2,000.00 accluding all appreciseds from 10:00. 11:00 p. m.

#### OTHER CLASSES OFFERING

FOOD STYLING WINEKSHOP - Which our for the subschile or our 7 days food beying. Workshop with Chells Gina-ions and Junyon plant a locker fruit one of the top Food Styles in loves. For more details on warkshop thires, registration toos and other requirements plants call: 725-5089 1726-9326 and look for Man lyn Expans and Glady Zamora.

FQOD 8 MITIAG R QRASHOF\* Learn the governized rules of heavy a food cranges with a sense of responsibility in the Philaption: severny. You will fearn that perfect composition of words and adjocalives are an enough to document the cartiest chainsty large, and as a lettry your tempers and pers will take our success's most colorful colorary statics that encourage our very own national servical. This I weekend workshop is uncharred to not reflect the food criticists, culmary demos. Took appreciation guide, readings, unfortentiage, hands on writing, resultant review cooking basics. Food concrage and cating discussions to capit an asymptot both writer the knowledge on troy to be published in different newspapers and cultivary chapteries. For more details on workshop dates, registration (one and other registration fore and other registration places only 725-5089, 726-9325 and look for Marriym flagure and Chury Zumero.

WE WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU COULD CALL AT LEAST TWO DAYS BEFORE THE CLASS FOR RESERVATION.

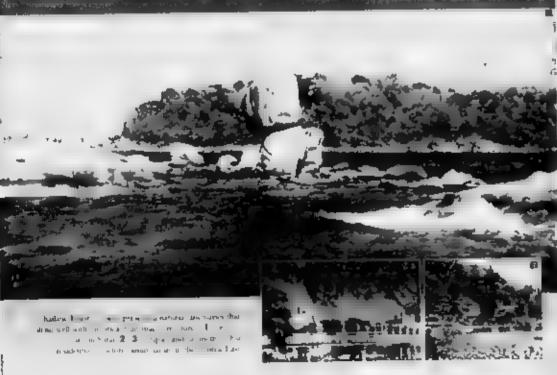
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#### Clean and green fiestas

CONSUMER

THE

By Linda B. Bolido

First ARE held all year round throughout the Philippines.

Out the Philippines.

But such events not only mean food, merrymaking and revelry but also waste—a loc
of it, in fact—the way they are traditionally
celebrated. From food packaging to buidentus to firecrackers, fiestas mean a lot of trash
to be dealt with the morning after. They also
use up a lot of water and electric

ity and can cause severe strain on the environment

The Ecological Waste Coalition of the Philippines (Ecowaste Coalition) says a mountain of trash need not be the mevitable consequence of fiestes. It offers tips on zero-waste and nonpolluting celebration.

For instance, instead of plastic and other inorganic materials for decoration, communities can use things that can be reused, recycled or composted like locally available biodegradable materials.

Plants and other greenery are more ecofriendly than plastic streamers, buntings or balloons. At the end of the festivities, decorations should be removed, washed and stored so they can be reused

Recycling stations may be put up where people can bring their trash for sorting. To the many people given responsibility for fiesta arrangements, organizers should add "ecowaste pairols" that will assist in the ecological management of discards.

Food concessionaires and vendors should be encouraged to use reusable or biodegradable alternatives like banana leaves, instead of disposable containers and utensils.

In processions, candles which do not yield excessive soot and are not likely to release toric substances like lead should be used. Better yet, reduce the need for candles by holding the procession in daylight. The use of firecrackers or pyrotechnics that adversely affect air quality should be minimumed.

The menu should be carefully planned Food should only be sufficient for expected guests. Meals and drinks should be served in reusable containers.

Condiments should be bought in built and stored in reusable butties, shakers or dispensers. Cloth napkins that can be washed and used again are better than paper

Instead of soda, offer water or healthy drinks like tengled, buke with pendan, or salebot with calamans.

Excess food should be shared with neighbors and people in need of adequate and nutritious food.

Discarded food should be saved for animal consumption or composting. Waste should be segregated and recycled. Discarded items should.

not be mixed, dumped or burned.

For more information, contact the Ecowaste Coaution at 9290376 or e-mail.

Manay Calonzo at manny.gata@no?

#### Feedback

Reader Peachie Filarra wants to consmend SC Johnson & Son for superb customer service. She said she bought a single Glade Magic Gei Decor 150g Coo. Line and kept it in storage. But, when it was time to use it, she found the container empty.

She called the company only wanting to inform them of the problem. The company's Quality Assurance Department readily replaced the item not just with one but two pieces. Commendable indeed:

Meanwhile, Grover C. Guillermo, manager of the SM North Edsa branch, sent a letter of apology to reader Grace V. Ramoy for the rude behavior of two department store employees. Guillermo assured Ramoy the employees had been warned that they faced disciplinary action if the incident was repeated

Ramoy complained that her sister was saughed at and made fun of by the employees. She said "this is the second time my sister experienced this from SM Department Store's staff." She added that her sister had a heart problem and she was concerned that such rudeness could be too stressful as to endanger her health.

#### Personal note

I beg the readers' indulgence as I add this personal note. Class 1967 of the Meshate High School (now National Comprehensive High School) will have a 40th anniversary reunion May 19-20, 2007 Members of Class '67 may call or text Marina (Verano) Merioies, 0910-3595261, and Evelyn (Martires) Udaundo, 0928-3561480 or 4543934

(Our regular columnus, Martetta V. Giron, is indisposed. Please send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. con Mascardo and Vague Sts., Makati City; PO Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati, or e-mail ibolido@inquirer.com.ph —Editor)



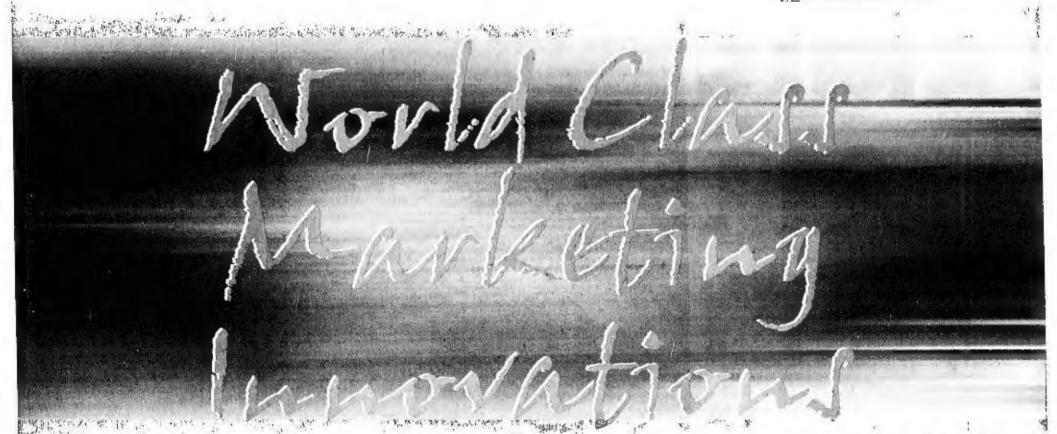
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#### Special PROJECT

ASSOCIATION



t is clear today that innovation is the rising dictator over the world of tomorrow and as a crucial principle, it must spread from the marketing department into the boardroom. The Philippine Marketing Association's 37th National Marketing Conference (NMC) highlights innova-

tion as a driver of business growth and an ideology that must be embraced by leaders of local industries. It is not only a means by which to get ahead but for some, it means survival in a flercely competitive environment.

More than instilling and cultivating a progressive mindset that is renewed in its approach of innovation, the conference theme, All That Jazz: World-Class innovations, shares a truly new and unique experience that cannot be missed. Enter a world of a never-beforeseen production that flaunts the soulful music of a live jazz band, the internationally-acclaimed artistry of a Filipino idol, the vibrancy of larger than life works of art, exclusive opportunities to test drive the world's dynamic luxury cars and all that jazz.

Marking a milestone in Philippine Marketing Association history, the 37th National Marketing Conference offers an experience that breaks the boundaries of the traditional learning environment and its innovations demonstrate creativity that is both Pilipino and world-class. Here is a jumpstart of local ingenuity and global recognition going hand and hand, let's look forward to a future that continues to combine both with innovation in the driver's sear.

#### New music, new instruments

It's like a good old song played hundreds of times. The ideas behind marketing have played on and on in our minds for as long as we can remember. But generations are now in flux, times are changing and so must our business approach. It's time to play the good old songs in a new mix.

Jos Ortega, chair of the National Marketing Conference (NMC) and CEO of BrandLab has crafted a remix of an old song. According to him, the only way to keep up with this surge of life redefined is, in turn, rethinking the way we understand our consumers and their needs. He identifies progressive marketing trends that will lead the way to stronger Filipino businesses going global. He has designed the NMC and its avant-garde theme, "All That Jazz: World-Class Introvations" in a way that will cultivate and instill fresh marketing developments into the local mindset.

Innovation is the first step to stirring the marketing movement. It is no longer a matter of just research and development nor is it a luximy by which market leaders get even further ahead, innovation is today the fundamental driver of business growth. Innovation begins in the boardroom. One of this year's NMC speakers Rene Almondras, president of Cebu Holdings Inc and vice president/head of operation transformation for Ayala Land will be expounding on "The Art of Innovation", showing how a unique vision starts with openminded leaders and corporate transformation from the inside out.

Because creativity is so integral to innovation, companies must break down traditional barriers and introduce new facilities to cultivate ingenuity. Leaders should allow ideas to grow because while it may appear unsightly as it sprouts, it may blossom quite beautifully. Originality needs to be embraced by business leaders and as a prime example the NMC brings in Butch Jimonez, SVP-Retail Business Group, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company, speaking on "Building a Culture of Innovation". Jimenez will discuss changing the standard, motivating the employees and breaking down the corporate hierarchies that impair many companies today.

Another NMC guest, head of marketing Sandeep Khanna, hails from a company that has utilized innovation to dominate the mobile communications industry not only in the Philippines but also on a global scale. He will share the insights behind Nokia "Maintaining Market Leadership through Product Innovations" and highlight how important creativity is for a market that constantly evolves.

Stabilizing the romanticism of new ideas, Lorenzo Tan, president and GEO of Sun Life of Canada, makes innovation accountable. At the end of the day, it is the ROI that keeps a company going and Tan promotes "Driving Innovations with Fiscal Soundness" to ensure a practical side to an artistic vision. Furthering the idea of accountable creativity is Paul Roebuck, whose agency, BB-DO Guerrero Ortega, was recognized as the most creative ad agency in the Philippines by Campaign Brief Asia. He will highlight the importance of demonstrating strategic focus on delivering market results amidst winning awards.

In discussing marketing trends, ideas work best when presented from the worldview of the consumers. NMC presents "New Research Techniques in an Innovative Environment" with managing partner of Good Thinking, issa Baron. Although most techniques have been tried and tested this age requires new methods that are aligned with modern day problems.

Beyond traditional marketing, innovations are playing a major role in corporate social responsibility. Alexandra Prieto-Romualize of the Philippine Daily Inquirer will be discussing the value of partnerships that benefit the community. Community building then is not an option for space time and funds but is a central port of a company's brand and business plan.

Finally, there is the evolving role of brands beyond just a marketing tool. Brand building is the force behind Filipino companies making it international. With this, Martin Roll, president of VentureRepublic, a strategic advisor on branding excellence, will expound on "Asian Brand Strategy: A New Boardroom Paradigm." This means elevating discussions on the brand from the marketing department to the board level as k drives the whole company.

in the same way, Joerg Breuer, president of BMW Philippines, delves into "The Brand as the Central Operating Principle" and stresses that every company decision must be driven by the values of the brand. From design to employees, from sales to engineering, its vision should be clearly manifested.

In addition, the NMC will feature Abhort Philippines, a pharmaceutical industry leader, directed by a leader who is also the brand pioneer, Edwin Feist. As president of Abhort Philippines and regional director for Philippines, Australia and New Zealand, Feist pilots the creative process of brand building, emphasizing that inpovation starts in the boardroom. Moreover, Johnlu Koa of Prench Baker demonstrates the importance of making day-to-day decisions based on a precise and purposeful vision. Professor JJ Roces of the Asian Institute of Management moderates the creativity discussions with Ariel Manuel of Lolodad's, Ed Calma of Lor Calma Designs and Rajo Laurel of House of Laurel. Lastly, Audie Gemora of Stages Productions will demonstrate how to dramatically increase your batting average in the boardroom when salling your ideas.



#### Messages



Warmest felicitations to the organizers, participants and guests in the 37th National Marketing Conference of the Philippine Marketing Association.

Our Government welcomes the holding of this conference with the theme, "ALL THAT JAZZ: World-Class Innovations," We support the further improvement of the already impressive skills of our marketing practitioners. We are confident that this event on creativity and innovation will raise the standards of the Philippine marketing industry, thereby contributing to a more robust economy.

Congratulations to the PMA for its more than five decades of promoting marketing as a profession guided by the principles of ethics and corporate citizenship and social responsibility. May you continue to be government's invaluable partner in working for the welfare of the consuming public, promoting free enterprise and spurring economic growth.

I wish you all the success of your conference. More power and mabuhay to our Filipino marketing professionals!

GLOR AMACAPAGAJ ARROYO President Republic of the Philippines



Satellites, computers, wireless communications, digital technology have compressed geography so that virtually anybody, anywhere can only be a fingertlp away on a cell

And because even the latest technology can now be accessible anywhere, consumer lifestyles have changed in a way we used to imagine only in the movies. As a result, we are confronted by an even more competitive global business environment where only the finest, the most prepared and innovative can expect to survive.

That is why the association chose for its theme "More

Up to World-class. Kaya Nacin."

World-class defines a clear performance standard which is exacting, demanding and stringent. It is the performance standard local marketers must aim for to build a competitive business. And Pilipino marketers have the enpathility to compete on this standard as demonstrated by Globe, San Miguel Corporation, Jolibee, PLDT, Just to name a few.

The association is determined to incoleate this mindset among its membership and marketing practitioners in general, through programs throughout the year that will inspire, stimulate and nourish a world-claus attitude and standard for marketing.
"World-class innovations... and All that Jazz" is the associations are supported in the association.

world-cless innovations of it would-class program, world-class program, world-class resource persons, and world-class staying.

We take great pride in hosting a world-class National Marketing Conference. Enjoy it?

TOM C PANGUES JR.
President
Philippine Marketing association



All that Jazz: World-Class Innovations is about empowering local businesses to cross the threshold of international industries. More than driving motivation in order to raise the har this theme means imparting knowledge and providing practical tools that can be applied in the workplace. The 37th National Marketing Conference is truly an innovation in itself as it transforms conventional learning environments and revenues the ways in which information is presented.

Many of the distinguished companies in the NMC line-up are led by filipinos who are at the forefront of business growth and innovation. There is no doubt that local industry leaders today must not only follow this lead but shift into the role of global trendserter. There is pride in being l'llipino and this world-class conference is a manifestation of what we can accomplish when innovation is at work.

I would like to extend my sincerest thanks and appreciation to the NMC Committee for their hard work and dedication. I am so proud to be a part of an event that con activere a business revolution towards international recognition. Let us show the world the creativity and passion that are uniquely Filipinol

FORMAL MALY BADE GUZMAN

EVP and Director-in-charge, 37th NMC PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION



Roger Enrico, the former chairmen of Pepsico once said, "Beware of the tyranny of making small changes to small things. Rather, make big changes to big things."

This has inspired the organizing committee to take this bold step in creating a truly inpovative marketing conference.

"All That Jazz" is all about Improvisation. And all our efforts were geared towards delivering that unique brand story for the conference.

The great business innovators from Ayala Land,

The great business innovators from Ayala Land, BMW, Nokia, PLDT, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Sun Life of Canada, Abbott, BBDO Guerrero Ortega, french Baker, VentureRepublic, Good Thinking and the Asian Institute of Management, will open windows of insights to inspite all delegates.

Greative geniuses from Lolodad's, Lor Calma De-

sign, House of Laurel and Stages Productions will provide unusual stimuli to marketing theories, ; Imagine a conference where the speakers are in-

Imagine a conference where the speakers are introduced by a live juzz band. And as an encore, the best juzz vocalist in the world.

Imagine a conference where all your senses will be tickled. Take the ultimate driving machine for a test drive. Feast your eyes on impressioned paintings. Experiment with the latest mobile phones. Test your audio intelligence. Take unique photographs.

And all that jozz ...

JOS OR FEGA Chairman / CEO BrandLab

#### Special PROJECT

PHEJPTINE DAILY INQUIRER ---

#### who will be a state of the second The Great Innovators



Rene Almendras



Joerg Bauer



Lorenzo Tan



Sandeep Khanna



Paul Roebuck



JJ Roces



Ed Calma



Rajo Laurel



Ariel Manuel



Martin Roll



Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez



**Butch Jimenez** 



Edwin Feist



Johnly Koa



Issa Baron



Audie Gemora

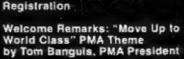


0730 - 0900

0900 - 1000

0500 - 0600

Registration



Opening Ceremony Erly de Guzman, PMA EVP

"All That Jazz" Theme by Jos Ortega, PMA NMC Overall Chair

"The Art of innovation" by Rene Almendras, President, Cebu Holdings Inc. 1000 - 1100 and VP/Group Head, Operation Transformation Group, Ayala Land Inc.

"The Brand as the Central Operating 1100 - 1200 Principle" by Joerg Breuer, President, BMW Philippines

1200 - 0115 Networking Lunch Sponsored by Philippine Daily Inquirer 0115 - 0130 Philippine Marketing Association

**Announcements** 

"Driving Innovations Investment with Fiscal Soundness" by Lorenzo Tan, President & CEO, Sun Life of Canada 0130 - 0230

"Market Leadership through Product Innovations" by Sandeep Khanna, Marketing Director, Nokla Philippines 0230 - 0330

Take Five: Coffee Break 0330 - 0400 "Work that Works" by Paul Roebuck, Chief Consultant, BBDO Guerrero Ortega 0400 - 0500

"Creativity Across Borders"
with Ed Calma of Lor Calma Design,
Ariel Manuel of Lolodad's
and Rajo Laurel of House of Laurel;
hosted by JJ Roces, Professor,
Asian institute of Management

Day 2 Announcements



(May 19, 2006)

0830 - 0900 Morning Jazz

1000 - 1100

0115 - 0130

0130 - 0230

0230 - 0330

0330 - 0400

0400 - 0500

0500 - 0600

"Asian Brand Strategy: A New Boardroom Paradigm" 0900 - 1000

by Martin Roll, Author of "Asian Brand Strategy" and President of VentureRepublic

"Unusual Strategic Partnerships" by Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, President, Philippine Daily Inquirer

"Building a Culture of Innovation" by Butch Jimenez SVP, Retail Business Group, 1100 - 1200

1200 - 0115 **Networking Lunch** 

Philippine Marketing Association Announcements

"The Road Ahead for the Philippine Pharmaceutical Industry" by Edwin Feist President, Abbott Philippines and Regional Director, Philippines, Australia and New Zealand

"Creative Entrepreneurship that Builds Long-Lasting Brands" by Johniu Koa, Founder and CEO, French Baker

Take Five: Coffee Break

"New Research Techniques in an Innovative Environment" by Issa Baron, Managing Partner, Good Thinking

"The Boardroom Is Your Stage" by Audie Gemora, President, Stages Production Inc.

Cocktails... and All That Jazz

Conference Design by Brand Latt.

#### Organizing Committee:

DIRECTOR - Erlinda B. de Guzman President & Founder Galling Pilipino Movement (GPM)

OVERALL CHAIR - Jos Orrega Chairman & CEO, BrandLab

OVERALL CO-CHAIR - Ruby T. Ramores President & CEO BrandPartner Inc.

PROGRAM CHAIR - Edwin C. Mapanao Marketing Director UTS (Unilab Animal Heelth Group)

MARKETING CHAIR - Maeyeth C. C. Marketing Manager PAX Associated Marketing & Management Services

> MARKETING CO-CHAIR - Nike A. Mora Marketing Director ANIMO MARKETING, INC.

ADMIN CHAIR - Sonia E. de Guzman President GRAND LINK VENTURES

CO-CHAIR ADMIN - Gwen C. Albarracin COO / Vice President CENTER FOR POP MUSIC PHILIPPINES, INC.

WAYS & MEANS-CHAIR - Rene R. Reinoso SVP Sales & Marketing PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

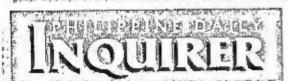
EXHIBIT CHAIR - Ting I. Samonte Vice President / Moneger DIRECT MARK COMMUNICATIONS / REG & COMPANY CPA'S

FINANCE CHAIR - Herminio J. del Rosario Retail Training & Marketing Consultant SUPER EAST ASIA

STAGING CHAIR - Joel G. Jimenez SVP GMA MARKETING PRODUCTIONS, INC.

STAGING CO CHAIR - Edmond S. Alcaraz President ALTA PRODUCTION GROUP INC.

#### Thanks to all our §









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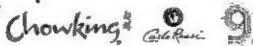
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MOVE UP TO
WORLD-CLASS

# Hove up to Moria-Glass. Kaja Natin.



The association is determined to inculcate this mindset among its membership and the marketing practitioners in general, through programs throughout the year that will inspire, stimulate, and nourish a world-class attitude and way of doing marketing!

"World-class" defines a clear performance standard which will enable local marketers to level the playing field with the global players. It is an exacting, demanding, and strict criterion.

This is a bold aspiration which the logo reflects with the use of big, bold and strong letters.

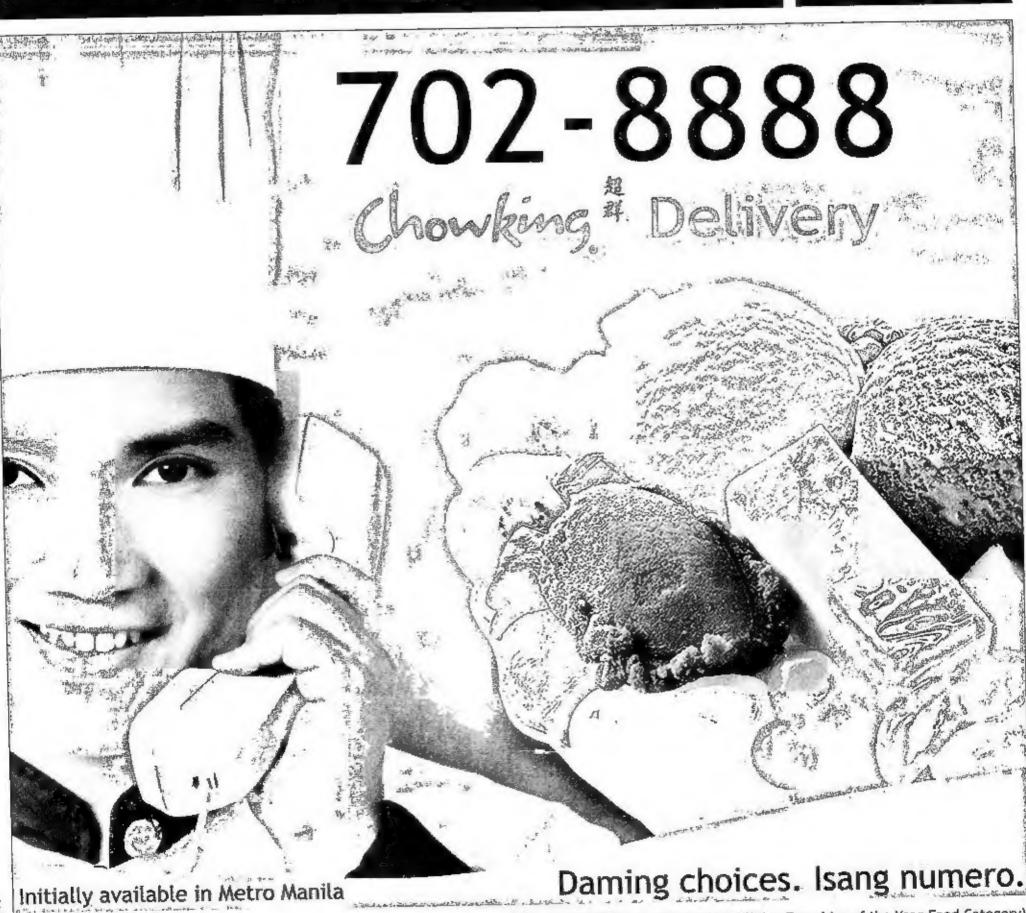
"Can Filipino-owned marketing companies measure up to world-class standards?

The answer, proudly, is "Of course! Jolibee, Globe Telecoms, PLDT and Smart, Ayala Corporation, San Miguel Corporation, URC Corporation are world-class Filipino companies, just to name a few."

As these and other Filipino-owned companies have shown the world, Kaya Natin!

And the theme captures this spirit, with confidence, by integrating the statement in the logo!





# The Resort Experience.

Meet in a five-star hotel 🏶 Play golf 🎨 Unwind in a spa 🏶 Work out 🏶 Dine on East-West cuisine

Shop and play Experience it all in a resort-in-the-city that is your home

# Sarasota

The newest phase of

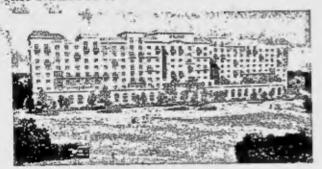
The Residential Resort at Newport City

The Metro's First and Only Luxury Resort Residences
Gazar Street, Newport City, Passy City



Live everyday a fresh new way, with a feeling of adventure and fun, in your home within a resort. Right next to ...

#### the Marriott Hotel...



Where you can experience five-star lunury any time of day. Here, 350 elegantly appointed rooms are matched by business centurn and luxurtoon leisure associties.

#### a modern Fitness Center ...



The whole family will enjoy hours of healthy recreation with first-rate amenities including a gym, adult and children's swimmin pools, tennis and badminton courts and lenglescaped play areas.

#### the Villamor Golf Course...



A championship-level playground for golf aficionados. Tee off in the 60-hectare, 18-hole, par-72 great. Non-golfers can enjoy front-row views of the spearding landscape.

#### a luxurious indoor Spa...



Where you can unwind amid top-notch therapeutic facilities, beat and exercise pools and arternative app and manage rooms.

#### and a themed Dining, Shopping and Entertainment Complex



Explore a structurage of international restaurants, stylish bouniques and alfrendo cafés f with live performances—all within walking distance from home.

# SNEWDERT City Whomes Command Regions Whomes Command Regions Newport City One-waste Region Regions Description Regions Format Park Apper Format City Control Regions Format City Format City

Join us on May 21, Sunday,

9 AM to 5 PM, at the Newport City
Grand Showroom.



Own this 2-bedroom unit for as low as P23,000 a month.



At Sarasota, discover the privileges of living close to nature in a Mediterranean-style resort setting inspired by Lake Las Vegas. Choose from an executive studio, 1-bedroom or 2-bedroom home, with wide windows and balconies.

The elegant, earth-toned residential buildings are no more than 9 stories high, so air can flow freely. Each building boasts as own lobby and ample basement parking. Aside from a guarded charance gate, a tree-lined perimeter fence encloses the entire community. The interior roads are wide and made safe to thiblers.

tool the houses are clustered around the play amenities, making it easy for neighbors to get together at the lap pool, putting green, finess station or tennis court. Or at the sitting area and the aviary with benches. Children, too, will enjoy hours of fun in their own pool and play areas.

Exclusive Marketing Arms



Megaworld Newport Property Holdings, Inc.

Newport City Information Centre, Newport City, Passy City, Metro Manila, Philippines

(632) 855-7580 • 855-7583 • 855-7594 • 855-7586

For Announcement Purposes Unity